THE DEVOUT CHRISTIAN

INSTRUCTED

How to Pray and give Thanks to GOD:

OR, A

BOOK of DEVOTIONS

FOR

FAMILIES,

AND FOR

PARTICULAR PERSONS,

In moſt of the Concerns of Human Life.

By SYMON PATRICK, *D. D.*
Late Lord Biſhop of ELY.

The NINETEENTH EDITION.

1 THES. v. 17. *Pray without ceaſing.*
——— 18. *In every Thing give Thanks.*

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M.DCC.LXXXII.

477

THE AUTHOR's PREFACE.

I Need not tell the well-diſpoſed Reader, there being ſo much ſaid and writ continually on this Argument, how natural and neceſſary it is for all rational Creatures to look back, upon all Occaſions, to the Author of their Being, that they may make him their hearty Acknowledgments for all the Benefits they have received from him, and ſtill recommend themſelves, and all their Concerns, to his continued Grace and good Providence: Nor ſhall I go about to ſhew how much the public Service of God, in his own Houſe, is to be preferred before the private Devotion of Families at Home; there being no Reaſon, as far as I underſtand, to make the latter neceſſary, but only becauſe in moſt Places Chriſtian People cannot meet together at the Church

every Day, Morning and Evening, to give to GOD *the Glory that is due unto his Name.*

My Buſineſs is to deſire him to remember, how natural it is likewiſe to all Mankind to take ſuch good Advice beforehand, when they have any Petitions or Thanks to prefer unto earthly Gods, that they may be delivered in a decent and grave Form of Words, as well as after a reverend Manner; and to conſider therefore with what ſober and prudent Care all thoſe Expreſſions ought to be weighed, wherein they preſent the humble Deſires and grateful Affections of their Hearts to the moſt high GOD, *and eternal Majeſty of Heaven and Earth.*

It hath not proved, I am ſure, an Honour to Religion, that Men have learned to be leſs ſolicitous about the one, than they are about the other: But ſuch have been the licentious Rambles of their Fancy in ſudden Prayer, ſo bold and rude have their Deſcriptions been of Almighty God, ſo raſh their Affirmations concerning him, or concerning themſelves, and ſo many untrue or doubtful Things have they uttered, that it is ſufficient, in my poor Judgment, to blaſt the Credit of that Way of Addreſs to him, as it hath done, alas! with too many, the Credit of Chriſtian Piety, which hath ſuffered ſo extremely by ſuch Extravagance.

I know there are great Numbers that will be ready to oppoſe me in this Particular, with whom I liſt not to diſpute in this ſhort Preface. *Let me only beſeech them to uſe ſo much Moderation, as not to diſcourage honeſt hearted People from performing their Duty to* GOD, *by diſgracing any longer, as*

they

they have been wont to do, all Book-Prayers; which if they have not the Advantage (as I think they have) of ſudden Conceptions and Expreſſions, yet are ſo neceſſary in the Church, that without them many Perſons cannot pray at all; and I hope they will confeſs, upon due Deliberation, that though ſome few may have attained an Habit of uttering their Deſires freely and becoming, upon any Occaſion; yet, as the Uſe of it before others is too apt to miniſter to Pride, Vain-glory, and Self-conceit; ſo moſt People are ſo defective both in their Conceptions and Utterance, as not to be able to diſcharge this holy Duty as they ought, without ſuch Aſſiſtance as is here offered them.

How well I have performed what I have undertaken, I muſt leave to the Judgment of others. I am ſure I have proceeded with Deliberation, and ſtudied faithfully to avoid all affected Expreſſions, fantaſtical Alluſions, inſignificant Allegories, pretended Wit, and elegant Converſions of Sentences, and raſh Applications of the holy Scripture to my preſent Purpoſe; which have been the Vices, perhaps, of ſome Forms, though not ſo frequently, as well as of Mens haſty Inventions.

I have laboured alſo to gratify the Reader with ſome Variety; not becauſe I think it is always beſt to uſe it, but becauſe ſome weak and ſqueamiſh Appetites will not be ſatisfied without it. And beſides Prayers for Families, I have compoſed a great many others for particular Perſons; wherein, if I have failed in the Clearneſs and Perſpicuity of my Expreſſion, it was much againſt my Will; and being

admoniſhed of it by my Friends, I will reform it, or any Thing elſe that is amiſs.

But the Length or the Brevity of the Prayers ſure will not be accuſed, becauſe there are of both Sorts; that they who like not the One, may make uſe of the Other.

Some, I doubt not, will complain that they find not a Prayer for ſome particular Want of theirs, not here named; but that is a Defect which could not be remedied; for I knew not where to ſtop, if I had extended my Thoughts beyond thoſe Neceſſities which are moſt common; and the reſt, I hope, may be reaſonably well ſupplied out of that, which I have done to ſerve the other.

It is poſſible alſo that ſome may judge this whole Work to be but a needleſs Labour, ſince they have the Book of Common Prayer *at Hand, which they can uſe at Home as well as in the Church. With theſe Perſons I ſhall not contend, but only deliver my Opinion freely about this Matter; which is, that the Reverence due to that Book, will be beſt preſerved by employing it only in the public Divine Service, or in the private, where there is a Prieſt to officiate. However, the Deſign of it is not to furniſh the People with Prayers for all thoſe particular Occaſions, wherein devout Souls would make their Requeſts to God. And the conſtant Opinion of pious Divines in this and in other Churches, we ſee, by their Writings, hath been, that other Books of Prayers, which they have compoſed, are neceſſary for the Flock of Chriſt, beſides their public Liturgy.*

That

That which remains, is only to entreat those who will make use of this Book, which is here tendered to them; First, to stir up their Hearts to offer their Praises, Thanksgivings, and Prayers unto God, *our Heavenly Father, with fervent Devotion of Spirit: And then, not to imagine the reading them out of a Book is any Hindrance to Devotion; but rather a considerable Help, and much better than trusting the Memory, even with a Form: For a Man's Mind hath nothing to do, when he hath the Words before his Eyes, but wholly to intend itself to the raising of its Affections unto the greatest Height and Ardency of Desire, and Love, and Joy, that it is able.*

But take heed, I beseech you, in the last Place, lest the Performance of these holy Duties, with some Affection, deceive you in the Neglect of all the rest. Our Prayers will be fruitless, if they be not attended with our serious Study and earliest Labour, to attain that which we beseech God to bestow upon us: And therefore, with a sincere Hatred of all Sin, and a Spirit armed with a hearty Resolution against it, invoke the Divine Grace for your Assistance.

If you be true Christian Soldiers, that manfully fight under the Banner of our Lord, *call to him for Aid, with your Weapon in your Hand: With a Mind bent to consider, desire* God *to enlighten you; and with an Heart stored with the Treasures of Divine Truth, beseech him to quicken and enliven you; and with close and urgent Applications of them to your Heart, entreat him to enable you*

to form and ſhape your whole Man, Spirit, Soul, and Body, according to them: For God *is not hard to be entreated, ſince he entreats us to come to him, yea gives a great deal of his Grace without aſking; but it is the Faintneſs or Inconſtancy of our Endeavours to comply with his Grace, and with our own Petitions, that makes them no more prevalent.*

They that had no other Director than the Light of their own Minds, ſaw this well enough, and were ſo ſenſible of this Truth, that they were wont publicly to declaim (as we find in Ariſtides's *Oration to the* Rhodians *concerning Concord) againſt the* abſurd Folly of thoſe who were perpetually importuning the Gods with their Prayers, but would do nothing for themſelves; no, not thoſe Things which they knew the Gods had put in their Power[a].

And in the ſame Manner Demoſthenes, *in one of his* Philippics, *chides the* Greeks, *comparing them to Men, who* ſeeing great Hail-ſtones fall upon their Heads, prayed that they might be preſerved in Safety, but would not run away to ſecure themſelves from Harm.

And therefore Clemens Alexandrinus *juſtly commends the Wiſdom of thoſe who made the Laws of the famous* Olympic *Combats*[b]; *by which he that entered the Liſts, having for a long Time before exerciſed his Body to Feats of Activity, was ordered, before he began to contend for the Prize, to ſtand right over-againſt*

[a] Ἄτοπον τὰς Θεὰς ἐυχᾶῖν, &c. [b] Lib. vii. Strom.

the

the Statue of Jupiter, *and to ſay this Prayer*, O God, if I am in all Regards duly fitted and prepared as I ought, for this Combat, vouchſafe in thy righteous Judgment to grant the Victory to me. *Even ſo, ſaith he, may a Man chearfully approach to* God, *who* faithfully, and with a good Conſcience, doth all that he can both to learn his Will, and to exerciſe himſelf in good Works, that are pleaſing to him; for he ſhall have all that can be wiſhed for the perfecting of his Salvation: Juſt as a Phyſician (*as he goes on*) reſtores Health to thoſe who cooperate with his Medicines, ſo will God give his eternal Salvation to them who work together with him, both unto Knowledge, and unto Well-doing.

As for thoſe who do not live well, it is plain, ſaith he, in another Place, that they do not ſo much as know what Things are moſt profitable for themſelves; and if ſo, then it is manifeſt likewiſe, that they cannot tell how to pray to God *to receive good Things from him, being ignorant of what is good; or if they ſhould receive them, they would have no Senſe at all of the Gift, nor uſe it according to its Worth and Dignity; and that for the very ſame Reaſon, becauſe they underſtand not its Value* [c].

Inſpire therefore, O God of all Grace, I moſt humbly beſeech thee, both my Heart and the Hearts of all others, who ſhall read this Book, with ſuch a godly Will, to endeavour

[c] Lib. vi. Strom.

zealouſly in all Things to do what is well-pleaſing in thy Sight, that we may comfortably expect the conſtant and powerful Preſence of thy holy Spirit with us, to help us in the Performance of our Duty, till we have perfected Holineſs in thy Fear; and the Sincerity of that Love to thee, which we profeſs in our Prayers, being teſtified by an unwearied Obſervance of all thy Commands, we may be able to wait with an humble Confidence for thy Salvation, who haſt graciouſly promiſed to reward our weak and ſhort Obedience in this Life, with inconceivable and endleſs Joys in a better World. *Amen.*

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Sam. Parker, *R^mo in Christo Patri ac Domino, D^n. Gilberto Archiep.* Cantuar. *à sacris Domest.*

THE

TABLE.

PRAYERS *for* FAMILIES.

	Page
ON the Lord's-Day Morning	1
At Night	8
A ſhorter Form for the Morning	14
Another at Night	19
A Prayer for Afternoon	23
Another	26
On a Communion-Day *Morning*	30
At Night	34
On Monday *Morning*	39
At Night	42
Tueſday *Morning*	47
At Night	51
Wedneſday *Morning*	55
At Night	59
Thurſday *Morning*	64
At Might	69
Friday *Morning*	73
At Night	77
	Saturday

	Page
Saturday *Morning*	81
At Night	85
A ſhorter for any Morning	90
Another	92
A ſhort Prayer for the Evening	93
Another	95
Morning Prayer for a particular Perſon	97
For the Evening	101
A ſhorter for the Morning	106
For the Evening	108

PRAYERS in the CHURCH.

A Short Prayer before Divine Service begins	112
Another	ibid
A longer for that Purpoſe	114
Another, more large	116
After Divine Service	118
Prayers at Home before Morning Service	119
After it is done	121
Before Evening Service	122
After it is done	123

The TABLE.

Page

On any Feſtival in Remembrance of our Saviour 125

On Good-Friday *Morning* 129

In the Evening 134

On any Saint's Day 139

On one's Birth-Day 144

For Reſolution in Well-doing 148

Another to the ſame Effect 152

After Relapſe into Sin 154

A Thankſgiving for Hope of Pardon 158

A Prayer for Divine Grace 161

Eſpecially in dangerous Temptations 165

For ſerious Conſideration 166

Ejaculations on ſeveral Occaſions, from 170 to 175

For Submiſſion to God, *in caſe of Loſs* 176

In Trouble of Mind 179

A Prayer to be uſed by others for ſuch Perſons 182

Another to the ſame Uſe 186

A Prayer in the Beginning of a Sickneſs 191

A Prayer to be ſaid by others with the Sick Perſon 195

A Shorter

The TABLE.

Page

A Shorter 200

A Prayer when Sickneſs continues long 202

When the Sick Perſon wants Sleep 205

Or is Light-headed 206

For a Sick Neighbour 208

A Prayer at the Point of Death 209

An Act of Reſignation when a Friend is dead 211

A Prayer when there is Hope of Recovery 213

A Thankſgiving for Beginning of Recovery 214

A Thankſgiving after Recovery 216

Another to be ſaid by the whole Family 221

A Prayer for a Sick Child 224

A Prayer before a Journey 227

In it, or at the End of it 229

In caſe of any Hurt received in it 230

For a Friend on a Journey 232

A Thankſgiving after a ſafe Return 234

A Prayer for one going to Sea 237

Thankſgiving when he is arrived, or returned ſafely 239

A Prayer in a Storm 242

Thankſgiving after it ceaſes 244

A Prayer

Page
A Prayer in great Thunder and Lightning 246
For a Woman with Child 248
When her Travail is near 249
Another to be said by her Relations for her 251
Another in her Travail 253
A Thanksgiving, by the Company present, after safe Deliverance 254
Another by herself alone 257
A Prayer for good Success in extraordinary Business 260
For one that intends a single Life 263
A Shorter 268
For one that deliberates about Marriage 270
For one that is entering into it 273
Parents Prayer for their Children 276
A Child's Prayer 278
A Shorter 280
An Orphan's Prayer ibid
A Widow's 281
A Servant's 283
A Countryman's Prayer for fruitful Seasons 285
When the Weather is unseasonable 286

Thanks-

Page

Thankſgiving for a good Harveſt 287
A Judge's or Magiſtrate's Prayer 288
A Priſoner's for Debt 290
A Malefactor's 293
A Soldier's Prayer 296
An aged Perſon's Prayer 298

A large Form of Praiſe, Thankſgiving, and Prayer, when any one would ſpend a Day, or Part of it in Devotion 300

In Twelve Parts.

First Part 303
Second Part 306
Third Part 309
Fourth Part 311
Fifth Part 314
Sixth Part 315
Seventh Part 318
Eighth Part 319
Ninth Part 320
Tenth Part 322
Eleventh Part 324
Twelfth Part 325

The

The same DEVOTION continued after the same FORM.

In Five Parts.

	Page
First Part	330
Second Part	331
Third Part	332
Fourth Part	333
Fifth Part	335

A Prayer in LENT, or upon any PUBLIC FAST.

In Six Parts.

First Part	336
Second Part	337
Third Part	338
Fourth Part	339
Fifth Part	340
Sixth Part	341
A Prayer in Time of Plague	343
In Time of War	344
In Time of Scarcity	346

The TABLE.

	Page
A Prayer proper for Ember Week	348
A Thankſgiving for any public or private Mercies	349
Particularly for Health	350
For Peace	351
For Plenty	ibid
A Student's Prayer	355
A Prayer at any Time of the Day	356
A Shorter to the ſame Purpoſe	359
Graces before Meat	361
Graces after Meat	362

PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES.

On the LORD's-DAY,

In the MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, the Lord of Heaven and Earth, we thy Creatures are here proſtrate before thee, to expreſs our humble and grateful Senſe of our Dependence on thee, to honour thee with our Praiſes and Thankſgivings; and with an hearty Oblation of ourſelves, our Souls and Bodies, to thy Service. We are unworthy, we confeſs, to be admitted to ſpeak unto thy Majeſty; nor can our Thoughts or Words add any thing to thy Greatneſs, Happineſs, and Glory: But ſince

thou art pleaſed, in thy infinite Goodneſs, to do us the Honour, not only to admit, but to invite our Addreſſes unto thee, that our Spirits may be bettered, by lifting up themſelves to thee, from whom we come, by meditating thy Praiſes, by exciting our Love, and paying our Acknowledgments to thee, we moſt humbly and thankfully receive this thy great Grace and Favour towards us: Remembering withal, that it is but juſt and reaſonable we ſhould pay thee our Vows which we made the laſt Night, being ſo graciouſly raiſed up in the Soundneſs of Body and Mind, to ſee the Light of this Day, which our Saviour hath made, that we may be glad, and rejoice therein.

We laud and magnify therefore thy moſt holy Name, thy infinite Power, Wiſdom, and Bounty, which all the World proclaims with the higheſt Praiſes. We bleſs thee in Behalf of all thy Creatures, as well as of ourſelves, (to whom thou haſt *given Dominion over the Works of thy Hands*) for *the Eyes of all look unto thee, and thou giveſt them their Meat in due Seaſon. Thou openeſt thy Hand, and ſatisfieſt the Deſire of every living Thing*[a]. But above all, we acknowledge thy ineſtimable Benefits beſtowed upon Mankind in Chriſt Jeſus, the Son of thy Love, whom thou waſt pleaſed, in thy infinite Mercy, to ſend among us in our own Likeneſs; to aſſure us of thy Good-will towards

[a] Pſal. cxlv. 15, 16.

us,

us, and to inſtruct us in our Duty towards thee, and to give us Hope of no leſs than immortal Life, by patient Continuance in Well-doing.

We remember with all Thankfulneſs his miraculous Birth, at which the Angels rejoiced; his moſt holy Life; his bitter Agony, and bloody Death: his glorious Reſurrection, upon this Day, from the Grave; his Aſcenſion into the Heavens, to ſit on the Right-Hand of the Majeſty on High; his Triumph over all the Powers of Darkneſs; and his Sovereign Dominion over all Angels, Authorities, and Powers, whom thou haſt made ſubject to him [b]. O God, how great was thy Love to the ſinful Sons of Men! which moved thee to paſs by ſuch innumerable Offences, whereby they had provoked thy ſevereſt Diſpleaſure. How great was that Love! which hath honoured our mortal Nature with ſo high a Glory; and committed the Care of our immortal Souls to one ſo mighty to ſave, and ſo full of Kindneſs, and moſt tender Charity towards us. O the Greatneſs of thy Love! which hath choſen us to be thy Sons and Heirs, together with Jeſus Chriſt, and ſet ſuch an High-Prieſt over thy Houſe and Family, to make Interceſſion for us, to diſpenſe all Divine Bleſſings to us, and ſend forth Angels themſelves to be *miniſtering Spirits for them who ſhall be Heirs of Salvation* [c]. Who can underſtand the exceeding Riches of

[b] 1 Pet. iii. *ult.* [c] Heb. i. *ult.*

thy Grace, in ſending the Holy Ghoſt to be a Witneſs of our Saviour's Reſurrection and Exaltation; and to make us *abound in Hope* [d], that we ſhall be one Day raiſed from the Dead, and carried to Heaven, and keep a perpetual Reſt, after our ſhort Labours here, with our Bleſſed Lord and Maſter, in his Eternal Glory?

O that we could begin it this Day in devout Meditations of theſe Things, in unſpeakable Joy and Satisfaction of Heart, in the aſſured Hope and Expectation of them, and in bleſſing and praiſing thee, who haſt given us ſuch good Hope, and everlaſting Conſolation. Lift up our Minds, we pray thee, this Morning, above all theſe little Things here below, which are apt to diſtract our Thoughts, and turn away our Eyes from that Heavenly Bliſs; and keep them above, in the ſerious Contemplation of it, till we be in Love with it, and our Hearts be fully bent and reſolved to ſeek it every Day in thoſe Ways wherein Jeſus hath gone before us, though it ſhould be with the Loſs of all that we here poſſeſs. It is but meet and fit that we ſhould wholly quit our own Will, and devote ourſelves to follow thine; eſpecially ſince thou haſt ſhewn ſuch unuſual Kindneſs towards us, as if we had been innocent, we durſt not have preſumed to expect from thee.

We are aſham'd, O Lord, to think that ever we have diſobeyed thee, to whom we ſtand ſo deeply indebted, both as we are thy Crea-

[d] Rom. v. 13.

tures,

tures, and as we are redeemed by the precious Blood of thy Son Jesus. It grieves us, that we have transgressed any of thy righteous and good Laws, by which it is our Happiness, as well as our Duty, to be govern'd. We abhor the Thoughts of ever breaking them any more; beseeching not only thy gracious Pardon, but thy Acceptance of our entire Resolution to agree with thy Will in all Things, for the Time to come. We here again most solemnly dedicate all the Powers of our Souls and Bodies to thy Service, desiring unfeignedly, that all the Thoughts and Designs of our Minds, all the Affections and Passions of our Hearts, and all the Actions of our Life and Conversation may be pure, holy, and unreproveable in thy Sight.

For which End we most humbly implore the Assistance of thy good Spirit, which our Lord hath encouraged us to hope thou wilt give to those that ask and seek it with their whole Heart. O let thy Mercy be upon us according to thy Word, according as our Hope is in thee, and our Hearts sincerely and stedfastly set to keep thy Commandments. *Search us, O God, and know our Hearts; try us, and know our Thoughts: And see if there be any Way of Wickedness in us, and lead us in the Way Everlasting* [a]. Fill our minds with awful and reverent Thoughts of thee, as our Sovereign Lord and Judge. Settle in us an immutable

[a] Psal. cxxxix. 23, 24.

Love to thee; and the higheſt Eſteem of thy Favour and Grace, as better than Life itſelf: That ſo we may ſtudy above all Things, to approve our very Hearts, and all our Actions to thee, and feel the Senſe of thy Acceptance of us, giving us greater Pleaſure than all the World can afford us.

Make it our Delight to praiſe thee, to call to mind thy loving Kindneſs, to offer to thee the Sacrifice of Thankſgiving, and to meditate on thy precious Promiſes. Help us to *take heed to ourſelves, leſt our Hearts be at any Time overcharged with ſurfeiting and Drunkenneſs, and the* inordinate *Cares of this Life*[f]: *To have our Converſation without Covetouſneſs, and to be content with ſuch Things as we have*[g]: *To poſſeſs our Bodies in Sanctification and Honour*[h]: *To love our Neighbours as ourſelves*[i]; *and as we would that others ſhould do to us, to do even ſo to them*[k]: *To live peaceably, as much as in us lieth, with all Men*[l]: *To put on the Ornament of a meek and quiet Spirit*[m]: *To take thoſe who have ſpoken in the Name of our Lord, for an Example of ſuffering Affliction, and of Patience*[n]; *and when we ſuffer as Chriſtians, not to be aſhamed, but to glorify thee our God on this Behalf*[o].

And accept, good Lord, of all the Praiſes and Acknowledgments of all thy People met this Day together, according to thy Will; and

[f] Luke xxi. 34. [g] Heb. xiii. 5. [h] Theſſ. iv. 4.
[i] Rom. xiii. 9. [k] Matt. vii. 12. [l] Rom. xii. 18.
[m] 1 Pet. iii. 4. [n] James v. 21. [o] 1 Pet. iv. 16.

aſſiſt

aſſiſt us to render thee ſtill more hearty and affectionate Praiſes, in that holy Aſſembly, to which we are going to join ourſelves. O that all People on the Face of the Earth were united togethen, likewiſe, in one Body, to ſhew forth thy Praiſe. O that thy Ways were known upon Earth, thy ſaving Health among all Nations. And that all Chriſtian Kings eſpecially, may be filled with thy holy Spirit; and think it their Crown, and their Glory, to be the devout Worſhippers and faithful Subjects of the Lord Jeſus, the King of Kings, and the Lords of Lords. *O that thy Prieſts may be cloathed with Righteouſneſs, and thy Saints ſhout aloud for Joy* [p]. That all who are in Diſtreſs and Miſery may rejoice alſo, in hope that all Affliction ſhall turn to their Good, and *afterwards yield the peaceable Fruit of Righteouſneſs* [q]. O Lord, hear us, and make thy Face to ſhine upon thy Servants; that *we may enter into thy Gates with Thankſgiving, and into thy Courts with Praiſe: That we may be thankful unto thee, and bleſs thy Name: For the Lord is good; his Mercy is everlaſting; and his Truth endureth to all Generations* [r]. Amen, Amen, for Jeſus Chriſt his Sake; in whoſe words we conclude our imperfect Prayers.

Our Father, &c.

[p] Pſal. cxxxii. 9. [q] Heb. xii. 11. [r] Pſal. c. 4, 5.

At Night.

O Lord moſt High, the Holy One, who inhabiteſt Eternity, who only haſt Immortality, and art moſt bleſſed in thy own incomprehenſible Perfections: Thou art to be feared and loved, to be worſhipped and praiſed, by us and all reaſonable Creatures, who have any Knowledge how great, how mighty, how wiſe and merciful thou art. All thy Works praiſe thee, O Lord, and we more eſpecially ought to bleſs thee, whom thou haſt made to underſtand thy moſt adorable Excellencies, which are far beyond the higheſt of all our Thoughts. And we have yet a more particular Obligation to thee, for thy marvellous Love in Chriſt Jeſus, whom thou haſt ſent in great Humility to viſit us, who are but Duſt and Aſhes; to make his Abode among us; to teſtify thy great Love to us; to aſſure us of thy good Will, notwithſtanding our many Offences, and to make us *exceeding great and precious Promiſes*, to invite us to approach thee, and to encourage our Obedience to thee. We thank thee, that he hath ſealed them with his Blood; and that thou haſt confirmed them by his Reſurrection and Aſcenſion, and the Coming of the Holy Ghoſt, and haſt alſo given us ſo many happy Opportunities to acquaint ourſelves with the Truth and Purity of the Chriſtian Religion, which comforts us in

in the State of Mortality and Miſery, with the bleſſed Hope of eternal Life.

Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs for that great Conſolation; and that thou haſt ſhewn us the Way to it by his Doctrine and Example; and aſſureſt us of the Aſſiſtance of thy holy Spirit, to enable us to follow after him, to that Glory which he poſſeſſes. Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, that we have felt it ſo often in our Minds and Hearts; inſpiring us with holy Thoughts, exciting in us devout Affections and godly Reſolutions; filling us with divine Joys, and with comfortable Expectations of the Glory that ſhall be revealed, We thank thee, that thou haſt permitted us this Day to attend upon thee, together with our Chriſtian Brethren, in the public Duties of thy Worſhip and Service: And that there we have received any good Inſtructions, any holy Exhortation, and Chriſtian Encouragements, to proceed and go forward in the Courſe of Well-doing; and have begun in any Meaſure that eternal Reſt, which we wait for with all the Faithful; when we ſhall praiſe, and thank, and love thee, our heavenly Father, better than we can do now, whilſt we are in theſe frail Bodies, and abſent from the Lord.

We can do no leſs than offer up again our Souls and Bodies to thee, to be ordered and governed by thy bleſſed Will, and not our own; that ſo we may be every Day more prepared for that happy State, and draw nearer

and nearer in the Diſpoſition and Temper of our Spirits, to that immortal Bleſſedneſs. It is our Satisfaction, our Security, the Eaſe and Joy of our Hearts, to be under the Conduct of thy unerring Wiſdom; to follow thy Counſels, and to be determined in all Things by thy holy Will; who art ſo good, and haſt given us ſuch large Demonſtrations of thy abundant Kindneſs and good Will to us, as will not let us diſtruſt thy tender Care of us; whatſoever it is thou wouldeſt have us to do or ſuffer in this World.

O God, purify our Minds and Thoughts more perfectly, that we may never conceive amiſs of thee, but have right Apprehenſions in all Things; and purify all our Paſſions and Affections likewiſe, that we may entirely love thee, and rejoice in being beloved of thee; and humbly confide in thee, and abſolutely reſign ourſelves to thee, and be filled with conſtant Devotion towards thee our Almighty Creator, and moſt merciful Redeemer. Poſſeſs our Hearts with ſuch a lively Senſe of our Relation to thee in both Reſpects, and of the Honour thou haſt done us in preferring us ſo much above the reſt of our Fellow-Creatures; that we may ever behave ourſelves ſuitably to the Dignity of our Nature, and of our Religion.

O that we may never degenerate into a baſe and unworthy Love of any Thing here below, nor be oppreſſed with the Burden of the Care of this Life; nor ſink under the Weight of any

any Affliction, nor be vainly puffed up with the greateſt Fulneſs of earthly Goods, if thou art pleaſed to beſtow them on us. But aſſiſt us with thy Grace, to *abhor that which is Evil, and cleave to that which is Good*[a]. Diſpoſe us to a diſcreet and temperate Uſe of all the Pleaſures of this World. Endue us with true Modeſty and Humility of Spirit, that we may *not think of ourſelves more highly than we ought to think; but think ſoberly, according to the Meaſure which thou haſt dealt unto us*[t]. Keep us from being *wiſe in our own Conceits*, and enable us ſo to order ourſelves, that *our Moderation may be known to all Men.* Make us *kindly affectioned one to another in Brotherly Love*[u]: To delight in doing Good; *to ſhew all Meekneſs to all Men*[x]: *To render to all their Dues; Tribute to whom Tribute is due; Cuſtom to whom Cuſtom; Fear to whom Fear; Honour to whom Honour; and to owe no Man any Thing, but to love one another*[y]. Make us ſo happy, that we may be able to *love our Enemies, to bleſs thoſe that curſe us, to do good to them that hate us*[z]; *to rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep*[a]. Compoſe our Spirits to a quiet and ſteady Dependance on thy good Providence, that we may not *take* too much *Thought for our Life, nor be careful for any Thing*[b]; *but by Prayer and Supplication, with Thankſgiving,*

[a] Rom. xii. 9. [t] Rom. xii. 3. x. 16. [u] Phil. iv. v.
[x] Tit. iii. 2. [y] Rom. xiii. 7, 8. [z] Matt. v. 44.
[a] Rom. xii. 15. [b] Matt. vi. 25.

ſtill make known our Requeſts to thee, our God[c]. And help us to *pray always, and not faint*[d]: *In every Thing to give Thanks*[e], *and offer up the Sacrifice of Praiſe continually*[f]: *To paſs the Time of our ſojourning here in Fear*[g]: *To believe thoſe Things which we do not ſee, and to rejoice in Hope of thy Glory*[h]: *To poſſeſs our Souls in Patience*[i]: *And to learn in whatſoever State we are therewith to be content*[k]: *Make us know both how to be abaſed, and how to abound every where; and in all Things inſtruct us, both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to ſuffer Need: Being enabled to do all Things thro' Chriſt, which ſtrengtheneth us.* That we feeling the Joys of Uprightneſs and Integrity of Heart, our Religion may be the greateſt Comfort and Pleaſure to us, and we ourſelves an Ornament to our Religion.

O that we could always, by an innocent, good and uſeful Life, commend the Doctrine of God, our Saviour, to thoſe who converſe with us: And that the Light of all Chriſtians did ſo ſhine before Men, that others beholding their good Works, might be moved to glorify thee, and heartily to believe on the Lord Jeſus. Send forth thy Light and thy Truth into all the dark Corners of the Earth: That *all Kings may fall down before him, and all Nations ſerve*

[c] Phil. iv. 6. [d] Luke xviii. 1. [e] 1 Theſ. v. 18. [f] Heb. iii. 15. [g] 1 Pet. i. 17. [h] Rom. v. 2. [i] Luke xxi. 19. [k] Phil. iv. 11, 12.

him;

him[1]. And endue them whom thou haſt placed in ſuch high Authority over others, with that Divine Spirit which was in him, that they may *deliver the Needy when he crieth; the Poor alſo, and him that hath no Helper. That they may ſpare the Poor and Needy, and ſave and redeem their Souls from Deceit and Violence; and their Blood may be precious in their Sight.*

Bleſs theſe Kingdoms, wherein we live; and as thou haſt long continued to us the Knowledge of thy Truth, ſo give us Grace to bring forth Fruit becoming the Goſpel; that thou mayeſt not cut us down as barren Trees, which cumber the Ground. Lord, ſave the King, and eſtabliſh his Throne in Righteouſneſs, that we may ſee many happy Days under his Government, and be *comforted now after the Time that thou haſt plagued us; and for the Years wherein we have ſuffered Adverſity*[m]. Proſper the pious Endeavours of all thoſe that faithfully feed and inſtruct thy People, and increaſe the Number of them. O that the Seed which hath been ſown this Day, may take deep Root in all our Hearts, and bring forth Fruit abundantly; that being not *forgetful Hearers, but Doers of the Work, we may be all bleſſed in our Deeds*[n]. Help us in all the Week following, *to ſet a Watch before our Mouth, and to keep the Door of our Lips*[o]. Preſerve us, that *our Heart in-*

[1] Pſal. lxxii. 11, 12, 13, 14. [m] Pſal. xc. 15.
[n] James i. 25, 26. [o] Pſal. cxli. 3, 4.

cline

cline not to any evil Thing, to practiſe wicked Works with Men that work Iniquity; but we may be always *Followers of that which is Good*[p]; *and as we have received, how we ought to walk and pleaſe thee, our God, ſo we may abound more and more*[q].

Protect us, we beſeech thee, and all our Friends every where, this Night. Grant us quiet and undiſturbed Reſt and Sleep; and awaken in the Morning theſe good Thoughts and Deſires again in our Hearts, *that the Words of our Saviour may abide in us, and we in him*[r], till we come to endleſs Life together with him; by whom we are encouraged thus to addreſs ourſelves unto thee, and to continue to pray, as he hath taught us in his holy Goſpel, ſaying,

Our Father, &c.

A ſhorter FORM *of* PRAYER, *for the* Lord's-Day Morning.

O Moſt holy and eternally Bleſſed, *The Heaven, and the Heaven of Heavens is thine, the Earth alſo, with all that therein is*[s]; Thou art every where, and canſt not be excluded from any Place; but art preſent to the greateſt Secrets of our Souls, and ſeeſt the cloſeſt and

[p] 1 Pet. iii. 13. [q] 1 Theſ. iv. 1. [r] John xv. 7.
[s] Deut. x. 14.

moſt

moſt retired Thoughts of our Hearts. Thou knoweſt very well with what Deſigns and Affections we now bow ourſelves before thee, and canſt not be deceived by any Words that we are able to ſpeak in thy Praiſe, whilſt our Hearts are far from thy Fear and Love.

Behold, O Lord, our Hearts are full with Deſires to be poſſeſſed with a mighty reverent Senſe of thee, and of all the Benefits thou haſt beſtowed on us; and to be lifted up to Heaven in Love to thee, and Joy in thee, whilſt we bleſs and praiſe thee, and ſpeak good of thy Name. We here remember with all Humility and Thankfulneſs, that thou art our Creator, and acknowledge thy Care and Providence over thy antient People, in bleſſing and ſanctifying a Day, wherein thou thyſelf reſtedſt from thy Works, that they might ceaſe from all other Employments, and admire thy wonderful Works; extol thy Power, bleſs thy Goodneſs, and be aſtoniſhed at thy Wiſdom, in making, preſerving, adorning, and governing this excellent Frame of the World. *The Heavens declare thy Glory, O God, and the Firmament ſheweth thy Handy-work.* The Sun, the Moon, and all the Hoſt of Heaven proclaim the Greatneſs and Splendor of thy Majeſty. *The whole Earth is full of thy rich Goodneſs: So is the great and wide Sea, wherein are Things moving innumerable, both ſmall and great living Creatures*[t]. There is nothing but

[t] Pſal. civ. 24, 25.

what

what ſpeaks of thee; and above all, the Children of Men, whom thou haſt wonderfully made, and curiouſly wrought, and impreſſed with thine own Image; that they might underſtand thee, and love thee, in all, and above all Things.

The Variety, the Order, the Stedfaſtneſs of all thy Works in this great World, abundantly utter thy adorable Perfections. But thou, O Lord, by thy Goodneſs, in giving thy Son for us, and then raiſing him up from the Dead, and ſetting him at thy Right-Hand, haſt given us new Matter of Wonder and Praiſe; and conſecrated a better Reſt and Holiday of Rejoicing, wherein we ſhould behold the Glories of another World, and have before our Eyes the Happineſs thou intendeſt for us there, together with all the excellent Means which lead unto it. Thou giveſt us Occaſion not only to reflect upon all the good Things thou haſt provided for our Bodies; (which we can never acknowledge enough; the very Health and Eaſe of one Day deſerving the Thankfulneſs of many) but we muſt alſo remember, that we are thy redeemed ones, and that thou haſt done great Things for our Souls in thy Son Jeſus, who is entered into the Heavens for us, and gone to prepare a reſting Place for all thoſe that follow him. This exceeding Riches of thy Grace infinitely ſurpaſſes all our Acknowledgments; ſince all the Praiſes we are able

to

to render thee, are leſs than is due for thy temporal Bleſſings.

To this Love we owe the Knowledge of thee, the true and only God; our Freedom from Idolatry, and a vain Converſation; the true Principles of holy Living; the Benefit of Repentance; the Promiſe of a Pardon; the Aſſiſtance of thy Holy Spirit; the Miniſtry of thy Angels; the Hope of Immortal Life; and the Pledges our Lord hath left us of his endleſs Love. To this we owe thy Forbearance in the Days of our Ignorance; thy unwearied Patience towards us in a continual Rebellion; and thy earneſt Entreaties of us, when we were paſſionately bent upon our own Deſtruction. Thou haſt ſent us, in much Love, many holy Inſtructors and Guides to Bleſſedneſs. We have had the Benefit of ſundry pious Sermons, good Examples, wholeſome Admonitions, and ſerious Counſels of the Power of the Holy Ghoſt, and divers Reſtraints of Fear, and Shame, and Love; and thou ſtill purſueſt us with thy merciful Kindneſs, and beſeecheſt us to attend to thy gracious Invitations, and receive thy Bleſſings, and make thee our Choice, and be eternally happy in thy Divine Favour and Likeneſs. What ſhall we render to the Lord for all his Benefits towards us?

O help us to manifeſt our real and unfeigned Deſires, to make ſome worthy Returns to thee, by our careful Improvement of the holy Opportunity

portunity which thou this Day putteſt into our Hands. O that our Minds may be more enlightened, to underſtand the Truth, as it is in Jeſus; that our Wills may be more ſtedfaſtly reſolved to cleave unto it; that our Affections may be excited to a ſtronger and more ardent Love to thee, and to a greater Delight in thee; and all the Powers of our Soul diſpoſed to ſerve thee at all other Times, more chearfully and readily, in all the Duties of Piety, Soberneſs, Righteouſneſs, and Mercy. So that every Day may become an holy Reſt to the Lord, by ceaſing to do Evil, and conſtantly doing Well; and we may glorify thee throughout our whole Life; in all our Actions, *ſhewing forth thy Praiſes, who haſt called us out of Darkneſs into thy marvellous Light*[a]. And enlighten, good Lord, the whole World with the Beams of thy glorious Goſpel; and diſpoſe the Hearts of all Chriſtian People, among whom the Sun of Righteouſneſs hath ſhone ſo long, to walk as Children of Light; that ſo they may offer up unto thee, this Day, moſt acceptable Sacrifices, for themſelves, and for all Mankind; and be fitted and prepared by ſerving thee in Righteouſneſs and true Holineſs here, to ſhine for ever in his heavenly Kingdom, with Chriſt Jeſus our Saviour; by whom thou haſt given us a good Hope in thee, that thou wilt hear our Prayers, and do

[a] 1 Pet. ii. 19.

for

for us above all that we can aſk or think; which we humbly beg, in thoſe holy Words which he hath taught us, ſaying,

Our Father, &c.

Another at Night.

O Moſt Bleſſed for evermore, the Father of Mercies, and the God of all Comfort; *How precious are thy Thoughts towards us? How great is the Sum of them?* Thou reneweſt thy Favours continually, and art ſtill pouring upon us innumerable Benefits, of which this is not the leaſt, that thou giveſt us Leave to come into thy Preſence, to call thee Father, and to make known our Requeſts to thee, by Prayer and Supplication with Thankſgiving. We accept, O Lord, with all Thankfulneſs, this thy great Grace and and loving Kindneſs to us; and are here again proſtrate before thee, this Evening, to acknowledge thy Goodneſs in making us ſuch excellent Creatures, capable to know thee, and acknowledge thee, and love thee, and by being made like thee, to be eternally happy with thee.

Bleſſed be thy Name, that we are now alive; and that we have lived ſo long in Health and Strength, and Peace, and Plenty of all good Things; whereas our Eyes might have been conſumed with Grief; our Bones ſore vexed; and we might have mingled our Drink with

continual

continual Weeping. We are bound unto thee for the free Uſe of our Underſtandings; for the good Inclinations we find in our Will; for any devout Affections which are ſtirring in our Hearts; for all the Advantages we have had by our Education, good Company, and holy Examples; and more eſpecially for the Illuminations of the Holy Ghoſt by thy bleſſed Goſpel; the Breathings of it frequently into our Spirits; the Importunities thou haſt uſed to draw us to thee; and the great and precious Promiſes whereby thy Love in Chriſt Jeſus conſtrains us to reſign ourſelves intirely to the Obedience of thy Precepts.

We ought likewiſe to admire and praiſe thee, for thy Goodneſs to all thy Creatures, who live daily upon thy bounteous Allowance. *The Eyes of all wait on thee, and thou giveſt them their Food in due Seaſon*[z]. Thou diffuſeſt thy Bleſſings in ſeveral Streams to every one of them, according to their Needs. *That thou giveſt them, they gather: thou openeſt thy Hand, they are filled with Good*[y]. We give thee the Glory of thy plentiful Proviſion thou haſt made for them; and more particularly admire thy great Liberality to the Children of Men; under whoſe Feet thou haſt put in Subjection, *all Sheep and Oxen, yea, and the Beaſts of the Field, the Fowls of the Air, and the Fiſh of the Sea, and whatſoever paſſeth through the Paths of the Waters.* O Lord, we praiſe thee for thy Goodneſs to thoſe who praiſe

[z] Pſal. cxlv. [y] Pſal. civ. 28.

thee

thee not themſelves! Be thou adored and acknowledged in thy Bounty, which beſtows ſo many Bleſſings unaſked and unſought; and continues them, notwithſtanding Abundance of Provocations, and moſt high Offences that they have given to thy merciful Kindneſs.

And let thy Goodneſs to thy Church be never forgotten by us, which thou haſt in all Ages protected and defended; in a marvellous manner propagating the Goſpel of our Saviour, confounding its Oppoſers, and ſpreading it by the Power of the Holy Ghoſt over the Face of the Earth. We thank thee for thy ſingular Favour to theſe Countries wherein we live. To whom theſe glad Tidings of Salvation have reached, and who have long enjoyed a more glorious Light than in many other Places; and being delivered from the Darkneſs of Popiſh Superſtition, and from ſundry Attempts that have been made to bereave us of this Happineſs; and are again ſettled, after many Confuſions, in a peaceable Enjoyment of thy true Religion; which thou haſt alſo continued to us, though we have not brought forth Fruit worthy of the Goſpel of thy Grace.

O that all thy undeſerved Goodneſs may have this Effect upon us; to make us heartily love thee, and devoutly worſhip thee, and zealouſly obey thee, and ſtedfaſtly truſt and hope in thee for ever. That by a careful Improvement of *the Knowledge of thee our God, and our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; by whom thou haſt given us*

all

all Things that pertain unto Life and Godliness, we may ſtill enjoy this ineſtimable Treaſure, and all thy Love to us at laſt may be finiſhed in thoſe eternal Joys which he hath promiſed to the Faithful. And as we have been taught, exhorted and encouraged this Day out of thy holy Word; and have likewiſe publicly acknowledged our Obligations to thee, and made Profeſſion of Love, and Gratitude, and Dutifulneſs to thy Divine Majeſty; ſo help us all the Week following openly to teſtify the Truth and Honeſty of our Hearts, in all this, by a blameleſs converſation; in all Humility, Meekneſs, Temperance, Righteouſneſs, Charity, and Peace, *with all them that call on the Lord out of a pure Heart.*

Bleſs our Sovereign, the Defender of the Faith we profeſs, and all employed under him in their ſeveral Offices; that they may be Inſtruments of continuing to us theſe holy Opportunities; with all other good Things that may make theſe Kingdoms happy. O that all our Friends may be thine; and if we have any Enemies, Father, forgive them. Comfort and ſupport the Sick, the Needy, and all other diſtreſſed Perſons, with an immoveable Belief of thy wiſe and good Providence; to which give them Grace patiently and obediently to reſign themſelves. And when all our Senſes this Night ſhall be bound up with Sleep, be thou, O Lord, our Keeper; and after the Refreſhment of that Repoſe, and this holy Reſt from our Labours,

raiſe

raiſe us in the Morning to return unto them with chearful Minds and ready Wills; praiſing ſtill and magnifying thy multiplied Mercies to us in Chriſt Jeſus, by whom we preſent ourſelves and Petitions to the, ſaying farther, as he hath taught us,

Our Father, &c.

Another for the Afternoon, or any other time of that Day.

O Moſt Holy, Glorious, and Bleſſed, thy Name is excellent in all the Earth, and thou art for ever praiſed by all the Hoſt of Heaven, who are never weary of thy Service. We thy Creatures, ſinful Duſt and Aſhes, have many Times profeſſed it is our Happineſs to join with thoſe Heavenly Inhabitants, in admiring, worſhipping, bleſſing, and loving thee, the great Lord of all, with pure Hearts, in Unity of Spirit, ſincere Friendſhip, and Brotherly Accord one with another. We have often ſpoken great Things of thee, and declared thy Service to be the ſweeteſt Pleaſure; and one Hour ſpent in holy Meditations, devout Affections, and chearful Thankſgivings, to be far better than all the Time we ſpend in other Employments.

How much then, if we mean ſincerely, and according to our Words, ſhould our Hearts rejoice

rejoice, that we may ſpend a Day in thy Courts, and are invited to a longer Attendance on thy Divine Majeſty, in the Duties of thy Worſhip and Service? We are aſhamed that any Wearineſs ſhould ſeize on our Spirits; and that it ſhould be irkſome to us, to renew our Thoughts and Acknowledgments of thy infinite Goodneſs. Behold, O Lord, we are reſolved again to addreſs ourſelves unto thee with Praiſe and Thankſgiving, for granting us ſuch happy Opportunities to look back to thee, the Author of our Being; to lift up our Souls towards our Heavenly Country, and unite them to the firſt and chiefeſt Good; from whence we derive whatſoever we have, or hope to enjoy: Beſeeching thee to help us to draw near unto thee, with Hearts full of Wonder at thy incomprehenſible Majeſty; full of Love to thy moſt wiſe and Almighty Goodneſs; full of Thankfulneſs for thy Benefits; full of Deſires to be what thou wouldſt have us; and full of Joy, that thou wouldſt have us to be ſo happy, in being made thy Children, Partakers of a Divine Nature, and Heirs of Immortal Life.

We admire thy Glory, O great Lord of Heaven and Earth, which ſhines in the whole Creation; thy greater Glory in the Work of our Redemption, by the miraculous Birth, Life, Death, and Reſurrection of Chriſt Jeſus; and the greateſt of all which we hope and wait for at his appearing, when he *ſhall come to be admired in his Saints, and glorified in all them that believe.*

Thou

Thou haſt done great Things for us already; thou haſt promiſed to do greater; and thou art daily performing thy Promiſes, and preparing us for the Accompliſhment of them all, in the higheſt Bleſſedneſs.

O God of all Grace, make us wiſer Stewards than we have been, of thy manifold Gifts and Graces, which we are intruſted withal. Help us carefully to huſband this ſacred Opportunity which thou continueſt to us, to the beſt Advantage of our immortal Souls. Gather in our Thoughts from our ordinary Buſineſs; fix them on thyſelf; and hold them in the Contemplation of thy infinite Mercies; and of thoſe Divine Truths which repreſent our Duty, and thy exceeding Love and Kindneſs towards us. Chaſe away all worldly Affections, and overawe our Spirits with a Senſe of thy Divine Preſence; that by ſerving thee with a religious Reverence this Day, we may be diſpoſed to walk in thy Fear all the reſt of our Lives. having a grateful Remembrance of thy Benefits; a deep and ſerious Reflection upon our own Reſolutions, and thy gracious Promiſes; an holy Jealouſy over ourſelves, leſt we ſhould be unfaithful to them; and a pious Care in all Things, to approve ourſelves the conſtant and diligent Servants of the Lord Jeſus.

O that our Thankfulneſs, and good Affection, and zealous Deſires, may not end with our Prayers, nor conclude with this Day; but we may be poſſeſſed with ſuch a ſtrong and ha-

bitual Senſe of thee, and of our Obligations to thee, that we may every Day earneſtly and heartily ſerve thee in all the Actions of Chriſtian Piety, and be unwearied in Well-doing unto the Concluſion of our Lives. Grant this, O heavenly Father, with all other Things which thou judgeſt neceſſary for us, or for thy whole Church; whoſe Services this Day, we humbly beſeech thee, may be acceptable to thee, through the Merits and Interceſſion of Chriſt Jeſus, our moſt bleſſed Lord and Saviour: To whom with thee and the Holy Ghoſt, be rendered, as is moſt due, all Honour, Thankſgiving and Praiſe, with the moſt affectionate and faithful Obedience, both now and for evermore. *Amen.*

Another.

O Moſt holy, great and glorious Majeſty of Heaven and Earth; to whom all the bleſſed Company above, do with the higheſt Admiration and Love, give continual Praiſe, and Thanks, and Honour, and Worſhip, and Obedience, acknowledging thou art above all that they are able to ſpeak of thee, or aſcribe and render thee. Much more art thou exalted above the Thoughts of ſuch poor Mortals as we, who are cloathed with Fleſh, and live far remote from the Throne of thy Glory; and yet, ſuch is thy Goodneſs, thou condeſcendeſt

to

to admit, nay, to draw us to a Fellowship with those holy Spirits, that we may thereby be made happy, and called thy Servants, though when we have done the best we can, very unprofitable.

What is Man, that thou art mindful of him? What are the Sons of Men, that thou dost at all consider them? Thou hast crowned us with Glory and Honour here below, and raised us to a Dominion over the Works of thy Hands. Thou hast endued us with Understanding to know thee, and with Wills to love thee; whose most excellent Wisdom, Almighty Power, and surpassing Goodness, we discover in all thy Works of Wonder.

But what is sinful Man, that thou shouldest so much regard him, as to send after him, to seek and save him, when he was lost! Lord, what Grace was this, that thou shouldest vouchsafe to speak with us, and communicate any Thing of thy Mind to such forgetful and ungrateful Wretches!

But that thou shouldest speak to us by thy Son, and declare thy Mind in such Words of Grace and Favour, and published such kind Intentions towards us; and recovered us with so much Cost, and purchase us to thyself, with the precious Blood of thy Son Jesus; and send thy Holy Spirit to purify us; that we might have thy Image renewed in us, and be made fit Society for thyself again, and restored to immortal Life! Lord! how much doth it

all Belief, hadſt thou not given us, in tender Mercy, ſuch abundant Aſſurance of it?

We have thoſe Reaſons to bleſs thee, which the Angels have not. We muſt admire thee, not only as the great Creator and Preſerver of all Things, which we heartily do, and give thee the Glory of all thy marvellous works; but alſo as the Redeemer of Mankind, out of a forlorn Condition, by the Manifeſtation of thyſelf in our Fleſh; by the Blood of thy Son; the conſtant Breathing of the Holy Ghoſt; the Light of thy Goſpel, and an unwearied Patience, which hath waited on us, and propounded to us no leſs Happineſs, than to ſit together in heavenly Places in Chriſt Jeſus; who is advanced far above all Principalities and Powers, and every Name that is named, nor only in this World, but in that alſo which is to come.

We praiſe thee, O God; we magnify thy moſt holy Name; we confeſs ourſelves bound to thee above all other Creatures that we have any Knowledge of; for we are twice thy Creatures, and thou haſt a double Title to all we have. O ſtir up all that is within us to bleſs thee, and love thee, and offer up the Sacrifice of Thankſgiving to thee. Fill our Hearts with Joy and Gladneſs, that we have another Opportunity, wherein to recount thy Mercies to us; to be farther inſtructed in thy Mind and Will, declared by our Saviour; and to be under the comfortable Influences of Heaven, to cheriſh thoſe holy Thoughts, Affections, and Reſolutions,

ſolutions, which are begun in us, and to promote our Growth and Increaſe in all Wiſdom, Goodneſs and Virtue.

Poſſeſs us with ſuch a ſtrong Senſe of thy continued Love towards us, that we may teſtify our true and hearty Thankfulneſs for it, by attentive Conſideration of all that we hear out of thy Holy Word; and by laying it up in our Hearts, and eſteeming it more than the greateſt Treaſures of this World; and endeavouring every Day to have our Converſation as becometh the Goſpel of Chriſt; that ſo our Praiſes being not merely Words, but real Deeds, and all the Fruits of Righteouſneſs, we may be bleſſed in our Deed, and at laſt hear our Lord ſpeaking to us in thoſe gracious Words, *Come, ye bleſſed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you, from the Beginning of the World.* And let thy merciful Ears, O Lord, be open to the Prayers and thankful Acknowledgments of thy whole Church; which we beſeech thee *to defend and cleanſe; and becauſe it cannot continue in Safety without thee, preſerve it evermore by thy Help and Goodneſs:* The whole Body of it is governed and ſanctified by thy Spirit, whoſe Heavenly Grace we implore for all Eſtates of Men in thy holy Church; *that every Member of the ſame, in his Vocation and Miniſtry, may truly and godly ſerve thee, through our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt.* who was content to die for us, and is raiſed from the Dead; and now

lives for evermore to make Intercession for us. To whom with thee, O Father of Mercies, and thy Holy Spirit, be eternal Praises. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Morning, when there is a Communion.

O Most holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, the Father of Mercies, the God of Peace and Comfort, by whose Power we, and all Things else, were created, and by whose good Providence we are all preserved and maintained: Be thou eternally blessed and praised, worshipped and served, with the most ardent Love, who hast made Mankind so like to thyself, and ordered so many of thy Creatures to serve us; and chosen rather to make us anew, and *create us again in Christ Jesus unto good Works*[a], than let us be undone by our shameful Disobedience to thee: For *thou hast sent thy only begotten Son into the World*, (adored by thy inconceivable *Love!*) *that whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but have everlasting Life*[b]. And he hath laid down his Life for that End, and redeemed us by his Blood from the Hands of our Enemies; and triumphed over them all most gloriously; and in Token thereof, ascended into Heaven, and possessed the Crown of immortal Life, and

[a] Eph. ii. 10. [b] John iii. 16.

sat

ſat down at thy Right-Hand, and obtained Dominion over Angels and Men, and all Creatures.

We have felt the bleſſed Fruits of his Death and Reſurrection, and Royal Power, whereby *he is able to ſave to the uttermoſt all them that come to thee by him*[b]. Thy Holy Spirit hath breathed often into our Hearts; we have been inſtructed in the Goſpel of thy Grace; and thy Servants, the Miniſters of thy Word, have not ceaſed to call upon us, yea, to importune us to follow after our Saviour, to that heavenly Bliſs in which he lives. And now again thou vouchſafeſt to us an happy Opportunity to improve ourſelves in Chriſtian Wiſdom, Devotion, and Holineſs; and we have received thy kind Invitations to the neareſt Approaches to thy divine Majeſty.

O fill us, we pray thee, with a lively and ſtrong Senſe of thy bounteous Goodneſs, which hath been ſo many Ways expreſſed towards us. Fill us with pious Diſpoſitions, to receive more of it according to thy precious Promiſes in Chriſt Jeſus. Stir up in us ſuch thankful Acknowledgments to thee; ſuch hearty Reſolutions to obey thee; ſuch earneſt Deſires and Longings to partake more and more of thy Divine Nature; ſuch Love, Delight, and Joy in Well-doing, that our Souls may be lifted up above to that glorious Place where our dear Saviour is; and we may comfortably expect,

[b] Heb. vii. 25.

and be truly prepared for a bleſſed Tranſlation thither, at the great Day of his appearing.

Our great Unfruitfulneſs, we confeſs, in the Knowledge of Chriſt, may juſtly make thee deny thy gracious Influences from Heaven upon us. But, O God of all Grace, who multiplieſt Mercy, and delighteſt in doing Good, pardon us, and make us better, by the Blood of thy Son interceding for us, and the Power of thy Spirit working in us. Quicken our Souls to hear thy holy Word with greater Fear and Reverence; to ſing thy Praiſes with greater Chearfulneſs and Gladneſs; to pray to thee with more earneſt Affection and Steadineſs of Mind; to approach to thy holy Table with the deepeſt Humility and Devotion of Spirit; and to receive the renewed Pledges of thy Love, to our very great Increaſe in Faith, and Hope, and Love to thee, and to all the World; that ſo this may be a good Day to our Souls, and we may be diſpoſed and enabled to ſpend the reſt of our Days better, as becomes the Redeemed of the Lord, who have taſted how gracious he is, and who have received the Earneſt of eternal Life. O that our Converſation may be in Heaven, by the conſtant Love and Exerciſe of Purity, Righteouſneſs, Mercy, and Godlineſs; that we ever ſtudying to glorify thee, our heavenly Father, by bearing much of this good Fruit, may have the more aſſured Hope that thou wilt glorify us with thyſelf.

And

And inſpire, we beſeech thee, the Hearts of all others that meet together this Day to magnify thy great and glorious Name, with the like religious Affections towards thee. *Kings of the Earth, and all People; Princes, and all Judges of the Earth; both young Men and Maidens, old Men and Children, let them praiſe the Name of the Lord; for his Name alone is excellent, his Glory is above the Earth and Heaven*[c]. *Let them offer to him the Sacrifice of Thankſgiving, and declare his Works with Rejoicing*[d]. *Let them preſent themſelves a living Sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto him, which is our reaſonable Service*[e].

Teach us all, O God, the Way of thy Statutes; and enable us *to keep it unto the End*[f]. Diſpoſe our Hearts to ſuch a Love of all Chriſtian Virtues, that we may *put on (as thy elect Children, holy and beloved) Bowels of Mercies, Kindneſs, Humbleneſs of Mind, Meekneſs, Long-ſuffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any Man have a Quarrel againſt any, even as Chriſt forgave us, incline us all ſo to do; and above all theſe Things put on Charity, which is the Bond of Perfectneſs. And let the Peace of thee, our God, rule in our Hearts, to which we are called in one Body; and make us ever truly thankful*[g]. Hear us, we beſeech thee, O moſt merciful Father; and after we have perfected Holineſs here in thy Fear, bring us all to com-

[c] Pſal. cxlviii. 11, 12. [d] Pſal. cvii. 22. [e] Rom. xii. 1. [f] Pſal. cxix. 95. [g] Col. iii. 12, &c.

pleat our Praises and Thanksgivings to thee, in the great Assembly of Saints and Angels, through Christ Jesus our blessed Lord and Saviour: *To whom be Glory both now and for ever.* Amen [h].

Our Father, &c.

A Prayer at Night, when there hath been a Communion.

O Eternally blessed Lord God, the Creator of the World, the Father of Angels and Men, the King of infinite Majesty and Power, who canst do what thou pleasest every where. *The Heaven and the Heaven of Heavens cannot contain thee* [i]; who art enthroned only in thy own Greatness, and crowned with the Glory of thy own uncommunicated Perfections. There is nothing can be added to thee by us, or any other Creatures, of whose Services thou hast no need, seeing thou art absolutely happy in thyself, *and givest to all Life, and Breath, and all Things* [k]. But it is our Perfection and Happiness, to admire and praise thee, whom we cannot comprehend; to love thee as much as we know thee, and to obey thee as much as we love thee, *with a perfect Heart, and with a willing Mind; for the Lord searcheth all Hearts,*

[h] 2 Pet. iii. ult. [i] 2 Chron. vi. 18. [k] Acts xvii. 25.

and

and understandeth all the Imaginations of the Thoughts[1].

We praise thee, therefore, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord. We give thee the Glory that is due unto thy Name; and with hearty Love offer up ourselves again entirely unto thee, whose we are, and from whom we were made. Justice and Gratitude, Fear and Love, Hope and Interest, whatsoever hath any Power to move our Hearts, do all press, and mightily urge us constantly to devote and consecrate our Souls and Bodies to thy faithful Service. We cannot neglect thee, unless we will cast away ourselves; nor sin against thee, unless we will be our own Accusers, Judges, and Tormentors, and throw ourselves into the greatest Miseries. Thou hast been so good to us, that if we should not become good likewise, we must hate and abhor ourselves, who cannot but love and delight in those who shew us any Kindness, and bestow any Benefits upon us; tho' they are but thy Ministers and Servants, that have nothing, and can do nothing, but what thou hast given them, and inclinest them to do.

By thee we were formed, and brought out of our Mother's Womb; and, by a greater Mercy, were early born again, and made thy Children in Christ Jesus: We have been thy Care ever since; and been instructed in that Covenant of Grace (into which at our Baptism

[1] Chron. xxviii. 9.

we

we were received) by the Knowledge thou haſt given us of thy bleſſed Goſpel; wherein we read the great Love of our Saviour in dying for us, and have the Promiſe of his Spirit to ſanctify and govern us; his holy Precepts for the Rule of our Actions; his glorious Example to excite and quicken us; and the Hope of eternal Bliſs, by his Reſurrection from the Dead, to encourage and comfort us in Well-doing; and in the mean Time we enjoy the Society of thy Saints, the Miniſtry of thy Angels, and the Direction and Aſſiſtance of thy faithful Servants, thy Ambaſſadors of Peace and Reconciliation with thee.

All which Fruits of thy wonderful Love we have long enjoyed; and thou haſt this Day entertained us at thy Table; where thou haſt refreſhed us with the Communion of the Body and Blood of Chriſt Jeſus, the Earneſt of a bleſſed Reſurrection, and the Pledge of Immortality, beſides innumerable good Things which thy moſt tender Mercy hath been pleaſed to beſtow upon our Bodies, to make our Paſſage to that Bleſſedneſs, through all the Troubles and Dangers of this Life, the more eaſy and delightful to us. And all this thou haſt done for thoſe who have been too idle and uſeleſs, cold and dull, inconſtant, and ſoon weary of their Duty, forgetful of Benefits, and unfaithful to their own Promiſes: But thy infinite Goodneſs ſtill continues to do it, to make us more diligent, more zealous, more ſtedfaſt and immoveable

immoveable, more mindful of thee, and our own holy Purposes, that we may be abundant as there is reason, in the Work of the Lord, knowing that our Labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.

And that is the most sincere and fervent Desire of our Souls likewise, who here most humbly beseech thee, by the Power of thy Holy Spirit, to preserve in us a perpetual and affectionate Remembrance of all thy undeserved Kindness to us. Stir up all that is within us every Morning, to bless and praise thy Holy Name; that by a renewed, serious Acknowledgment of thy Benefits, we may be more and more stirred up to Love and to all good Works. O that the Lord Jesus may be always in our Thoughts, and in our Hearts; that we may make him our Pattern, as he is our Hope! O that nothing may be so dear unto us in this World, as his Holiness, his Humility, his Goodness and Charity, his Meekness and Patience, his entire Trust in thee, and Resignation to thee, his Delight to do thy Will. O God, in hope of that *eternal Life, which thou, who canst not lye, hast promised to us* [a]. Fix our Minds and Affections more stedfastly on that Glory, wherewith he is crowned, by his obedient Suffering of Death, that we may never be weary, nor faint in our Minds, under any Suffering for Well-doing; but continuing faithful to the Death, may also receive the Crown

[a] Tit. i. 2.

of

of Life. And be graciously pleased, O Lord, to fulfil the devout Prayers of thy Church, which have been this Day offered unto thee for all Mankind; especially for all Christian People, for these Kingdoms, for our Sovereign, and all the Royal Family; for our spiritual Pastors and Governors; for all Sorts and Conditions of Men among us. Let all those Supplications for Grace, Mercy, and Peace, together with all the Praises and Thanksgivings which have been rendered for all thy Blessings, be ever acceptable in thy Sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer.

And particularly, we beseech thee, to accept of this our bounden Duty and Service: Pity our great Weaknesses; pardon all our Sins and Negligences; and deny us not the Grace of thy Holy Spirit, which we have implored, to enable us to amend our Lives according to thy holy Word: But after thou hast refreshed us with quiet Sleep this Night, let us feel it moving our Hearts to the same holy Thoughts, Acknowledgments, Desires, and Resolutions which it now works in us, through thy Mercy declared to us in Christ Jesus; in whose Words we conclude our Prayers, saying, as he hath taught us,

Our Father, &c.

PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES.

Monday Morning.

WE humble ourselves, O Lord of Heaven and Earth, before thy glorious Majesty; we heartily acknowledge thy Sovereign Dominion over us and all Creatures; we praise and magnify thy Eternal Power, Wisdom, Goodness, and Truth; and we render thee our most unfeigned Thanks for the innumerable Benefits which thou in thy Bounty hast loaded us withall: Above all, for the gracious Declaration thou hast made of thy good Will to us in Christ Jesus; by whom thou hast invited and encouraged Sinners to return to thee, and directed them in the Way to everlasting Bliss.

We blush to think of our shameful Forgetfulness of thee, and Ingratitude to thee; to whom we owe all that we have in this World, and all our Hopes in the next. We most humbly implore thy tender Mercies in the Forgiveness of all our Sins, whereby we have offended either in Thought, Word, or Deed, and

against

againſt thy juſt and holy Laws. For we are truly ſorry for all our Miſdoings; we utterly renounce whatſoever is contrary to thy Will, and here devote ourſelves entirely to the Obedience thereof. Accept, O moſt merciful Father, of this renewed Dedication which we make of our whole Man, Body, Soul and Spirit to thee: And as thou doſt inſpire us with holy Reſolutions, ſo accompany them always with the Aſſiſtance of thy Grace, that we may be able every Day to offer up ourſelves more ſincerely, and more chearfully to thee; with more pure Affection, and hearty Devotion, and ready Diſpoſition to thy Service.

We adore thy great Grace which hath brought Salvation to us; and *teacheth us, that denying all Ungodlineſs and worldly Luſts, we ſhould live ſoberly, righteouſly and godly in this preſent World*[a]. We will endeavour, O Lord, to preſerve a grateful Senſe of thy mighty Love in our Minds, and to follow the Doctrine and Example of thy Son Chriſt Jeſus, as becomes thoſe who have ſuch *a bleſſed Hope*, and look for ſo great Salvation at the Day of his glorious Appearing. We deſire above all Things to be ſo pure and undefiled, ſo meek and gentle, ſo humble and lowly, ſo juſt and merciful, ſo peaceable and patient, contented and thankful as our bleſſed Lord and Maſter was: And we hope that thou wilt fulfil all the gracious Promiſes he hath made to us, which we eſteem far greater Trea-

[a] Tit. ii. 11, 12.

ſures

ſure than Thouſands of Gold and Silver. They are the Support, the Comfort, the Satisfaction of our Hearts. We aſk nothing, but that it may be to thy Servants according to his Word.

Thou haſt mercifully kept us the laſt Night, bleſſed be thy continued Goodneſs, and raiſed us again to ſee the Light of this Morning: Receive us likewiſe all this Day into thy Protection, to which we moſt humbly commit ourſelves. We truſt ourſelves, and all belonging to us with thee our Creator and Redeemer. We ſubmit to thy Orders, and are willing to do and ſuffer what thou pleaſeſt; *waiting for the Mercy of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt unto eternal Life*[a].

And we deſire, thou knoweſt, the Good of all Mankind, as well as our own, eſpecially of all Chriſtian People; that they may all walk worthy of the Goſpel, and live together in Unity and godly Love. For which End, we pray that all Chriſtian Kings, Princes and Governors, may be wiſe, pious, juſt and merciful; endeavouring that all their Subjects may lead peaceable Lives under them, in all Godlineſs and Honeſty. And more particularly, that our Sovereign may be bleſſed with a religious, quiet, long and proſperous Reign; and that all his Miniſters of State, and Officers of Juſtice, may conſcientiouſly diſcharge the Truſt that is repoſed in them; ſeeking in their ſeveral Places how to right the Oppreſſed, to comfort the Afflicted, to provide for the Poor and Needy,

[a] Jude 21.

and

and to relieve all those that are in any Misery. Bless all our spiritual Pastors and Instructors; succeed their Labours, and give us Grace to follow their godly Admonitions; *to esteem them very highly in Love for their Works sake; and to be at Peace among ourselves*[p]. The same Blessings we crave for all our Friends, Relations and Acquaintance; that we may all live in perfect Love and Peace together, doing our Duties to thee, to each other, and to all Men so faithfully, that we may give a comfortable Account of ourselves, and rejoice together at the great Day of the Lord Jesus; in whose holy Words we beseech thee to help us still more heartily to offer up our Desire to thee.

Our Father, &c.

At NIGHT.

ALmighty and most merciful Father, by whom we were made, and in whom we live, move, and have our Being: To whose tender Compassions we owe our Safety the Day past, together with all the Comforts of this present Life, and the Hopes of that which is to come. We praise and laud thee, O Lord, the Creator and Governor of the World. We ascribe all Greatness, Might, Majesty, Wisdom, Riches and Bounty to thee, whom all the Host

[p] 1 Thess. v. 13.

of

of Heaven continually admires and acknowledges with the most joyful Reverence. We bow ourselves likewise before thee, and worship thee in an humble Sense that we are nothing in Comparison with thee, and we have nothing but what we receive from thee. *Unto thee do we give Thanks, O God, our exceeding Joy, who daily powrest thy Benefits upon us.*[1]

Blessed be thy great Goodness for the long Health, which by thy Favour we have enjoyed; for our Food and our Raiment; for our Peace and our Safety; for the Society of our Friends, and the Love of our Neighbour; for the Success thou hast given to our honest Labours after the Things of this Life, and to our pious Endeavours to attain that Life which is immortal. We can never bless thee enough for that wonderful Grace, which sent Jesus Christ to reveal that eternal Life to us, and to direct us in the Way that leads unto it, by his dwelling among us, and by his dying for us, and by his rising again to be the Lord of Life and Glory, and to send his Apostles to preach these glad Tidings of Salvation to the World. We thank thee with all our Souls, that we feel in our Hearts any Motion towards thee; and that we have made the least Progress in those Paths of Life, which thy Goodness hath laid before us so plainly in thy Gospel.

Behold, O Lord, we present ourselves here before thee, to be inspired with such a vigorous

[1] Psal. lxxv. 1. xliii. 4. lxviii. 19.

and

and full Sense of thy Love, as may move us more powerfully towards thee, and put us forward with a greater Earnestness, Zeal and Diligence in all our Duty. There is nothing in Heaven or Earth that we can desire, but to be beloved of thee; who possesseth both, and art able to make thy Friends as great and as happy as thou pleasest. Assist us therefore still by thy Grace, to the Recovery of such a lively Image of thee in all Righteousness, Purity, Mercy, Faithfulness, and Truth, that we may know thou lovest us. O that Jesus, the Hope of Glory, may be formed in us in all Humility, Meekness, Patience, Contentedness, Peaceableness, and absolute Surrender of our Souls and Bodies to thy holy Will and Pleasure; *That we may no longer live, but Christ may live in us, and the Life we lead in the Flesh may be by the Faith of thy Son, O God, who loved us, and gave himself for us*[1].

The Remembrance of that Love is most dear and precious to us. We cannot often enough make mention of so great Kindness, as his making himself freely an Offering for our Sins. It moves us again to offer up ourselves sincerely to thee, to do thy Will, O God, as our blessed Lord and Master did. We repose also an entire Confidence in thee, and still trust ourselves with thee, who hast *not spared thine own Son, but given him up for us all*[2]. We will humbly and reverently accept of whatsoever thou sendest us,

[1] Gal. ii. 20. [2] Rom. viii. 32.

and

and *in every Thing give Thanks, which is thy Will concerning us in Christ Jesus*[1]. We hope thou wilt never leave us nor forsake us; but conduct us safe through all Varieties and Changes of our Condition here in an unchangeable Love to thee, and in an holy Composure and Tranquillity of Mind in thy Love to us, till we come to live with thee, and enjoy thee for ever.

And now that we are going to lay ourselves down to sleep, take us into thy gracious Protection, and settle our Spirits in such quiet and delightful Thoughts of the Glory where our Lord Jesus lives, that we may be willing to leave this World, and go to him; *who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.*[2].

To his Blessing we recommend all Mankind, of whatsoever Rank and Condition they be; High and Low, Rich and Poor; that they might all be so happy as to do their several Duties carefully, and to enjoy contentedly whatsoever is needful for them. And especially we we beseech thee *that the Course of this World may be so peaceably ordered by thy Governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly Quietness.* We leave all we have with thee, especially our Friends, and those who are dear unto us; desiring, that when we are dead and gone, they may lift up their Souls in this manner unto thee, and teach those that come after to praise, love, and obey thee; and that if we wake

[1] 1 Thess. v. 18. [2] 1 Thess. v. 10.

again

again in the Morning, our Mouths may likewise praise thee again with joyful Lips, and we may still offer ourselves a more acceptable Sacrifice to thee through Christ Jesus; in whose Words we beseech thee to hear us, according to the fullest Sense and Intention of them.

Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name; Thy Kingdom come: Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven: Give us this Day our daily Bread: And forgive us our Trespasses, as we forgive them that Trespass against us: And lead us not into Temptation, but deliver us from Evil, &c.

PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES.

Tuesday Morning.

ALL Honour, Glory, and Praise be given to thee, O Lord, our Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, by us, and by all the World. Thou art worthy of all our Love, Service, and Obedience, being most excellent in thy own Nature, and of so abundant Kindness to us thy Creatures. We most humbly therefore prostrate ourselves before thee this Morning, to make thee our thankful Acknowledgements for all thy Benefits, and render thee our most hearty and affectionate Service, and wait upon thy Bounty for the Continuance of thy Grace and Mercy to us. Though we are not worthy, we confess, of the least Regard from thee, whom we have so much neglected, and whose Love and Clemency we have too often abused; yet we hope thou wilt accept of this small Oblation which we make of ourselves, our Souls, and Bodies, with unfeigned Devotion to thee. Pardon and forgive us, we most humbly beseech thee,

thee, all our past Offences; the Remembrance of which is grievous, and bitter to us; and vouchsafe us the Grace of thy Holy Spirit, to enable us to do thy Will with greater Care and Diligence for the Time to come. Let it ever accompany and assist us, according as thou seest us sincerely desirous and studious to please thee, in all the Actions of an holy Life, in Charity and Temperance, Justice and Fidelity, Mercy and Charity, Meekness and Humility, Patience and Contentedness, Innocency and Peace; and in continual Prayers, Praises, and Thanksgivings to thee, the Father of Mercies, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We see how frail and weak our Bodies, and all their Enjoyments are; and therefore we the more earnestly desire to have our Souls enriched with those immortal Treasures of thy divine Grace. O that we may never cease most zealously to seek and pursue them; and that we may think ourselves happy enough in the Possession of them; and may rejoice in nothing so much, as in *having our Fruit unto Holiness*[z], that in *the End* we may attain *eternal Life*. Suffer not our Spirits to sink too deep into the Love of any of the dearest Good that we have in this World; but rather by all these earthly Things, which thy Goodness affords to us for our Support, Ease, and Delight, raise our Minds and Hearts to those Celestial Enjoyments, which will yield us eternal Pleasure and

[z] Rom. vi. 22.

Satisfaction.

Satisfaction. Set our Affections principally on Things above. Make us ſo wiſe as to provide ourſelves Friends that never die; and to be ſtill preparing ourſelves by all divine Qualities for their Company and Society; that ſo they may *receive us*, when we remove hence, *into* their *everlaſting Habitation*[r].

Thus now we commend ourſelves this Day to thy moſt gracious Protection, Guidance, and Bleſſing; hoping that the ſame good Providence which preſerved us, and our Habitations, the laſt Night from Fire, and innumerable other Dangers (for which we thank thee) will guard us this Day from all Evil and Miſchief, and bring us in Safety of Soul and Body to praiſe thee in the Evening. Help us thankfully to receive, and ſoberly to uſe all thy Mercies; quietly to do our own Buſineſs, and bear our ſeveral Burthens; to be juſt in our Dealings; innocent and harmleſs in our Converſation; well pleaſed with the Proſperity of our Neighbours; deſirous of the Good of the World; eſpecially that they may all love, and honour, and join together in magnifying and praiſing thee, our Lord and Governor, whoſe Name is excellent in all the Earth.

More particularly, we implore thy Mercies towards theſe Kindoms wherein we live. Remember not againſt us our high Provocations. Spare us, good Lord, and have Patience with us, if perhaps we may bring forth better Fruit,

[r] Luke xvi. 9.

becoming thy Holy Goſpel, and all the Care thou haſt taken about us: Endue our Sovereign with much Wiſdom from Above, that he may always diſcern what is moſt profitable for us, and earneſtly purſue it to the utmoſt of his Power. Bleſs him in his Relations; in his Counſellors; in his Judges, and all other Officers; in all the Nobility, Clergy, Gentry, and Commonalty of the Realm; that every one of them may uprightly and zealouſly do their Duty to the Maintenance of thy true Religion, and the Increaſe of Piety, Honeſty, and brotherly Love among us. Comfort and relieve all thoſe that are in any Diſtreſs, Trouble, or Anguiſh, either of Body or Mind. And give us tender and pitiful Hearts towards them, ready to help and eaſe them according to our Abilities, that we following the Example of our merciful and compaſſionate High-Prieſt, Chriſt Jeſus, may have now the Benefit of his Interceſſion for us, and at laſt be admitted into the high and holy Place where he is; in whoſe bleſſed Name and Words we conclude our Prayers.

Our Father, &c.

At Night.

WE fall down before thee, O Lord of Heaven and Earth, and worſhip thee in the deepeſt Humility of our Souls; acknowledging that we are thy Creatures, who ſtand infinitely bound unto thee by innumerable Bleſſings and Favours which thou haſt conferred upon us, out of thy meer Bounty and Goodneſs. We owe our Lives to that alone, and all the Comforts of them; together with all the Hopes we have hereafter, either in this World, or in the other. And bleſſed, for ever bleſſed be thy merciful Kindneſs, for giving ſuch glorious Hopes by the Lord Jeſus; by his Death and Reſurrection; by his Aſcenſion, and being enthroned at thy Right-Hand, and by the Coming of the Holy Ghoſt to be a Witneſs of his Majeſty and Glory. We rejoice, O Lord, in that great Salvation which thou haſt ſent unto us; and cannot but be ſtill praiſing thee, whoſe Love hath ſo abounded towards us beyond all our Thoughts and Deſires. Pardon we moſt humbly beſeech thee, out of the ſame Grace and Mercy, all our paſt Neglects of thee; our Inſenſibleneſs of thy Benefits; our Careleſſneſs, or inconſtancy in our Obedience; and particularly whatſoever we have done or omitted this Day, contrary to thoſe holy Purpoſes and Reſolutions wherein we ſtand engaged to thee.

And vouchſafe us the Aſſiſtance of thy Holy Spirit, to enable us to perform thoſe Vows better, which here we renew, of greater Gratitude, and more chearful and ſtedfaſt Obedience to thy divine Majeſty for the Time to come. Awaken our Minds to frequent and ſerious Reflections upon thy undeſerved and moſt bountiful Mercies toward us. Touch our Hearts with ſuch an ingenuous and dutiful Senſe of them, that our Wills may be overcome to yield themſelves wholly and abſolutely to thee.

And that we may feel them conſtantly provoked to Love and good Works, help us ever to ſet our Lord and Maſter, by whoſe Name we are called, before our Eyes, and to admire his unſpotted Purity; his condeſcending Humility; his tender-hearted Charity; his Meekneſs of Wiſdom; his hearty Truſt in thee, and Reſignation to thee; his Forgiveneſs of Injuries; his Patience under Reproaches and cruel Torments; his peaceable and contented Spirit; his acknowledging thee in all Things, and ever ſeeking thy Honour and Glory; that being in love with all theſe, and valuing them more than Life itſelf, we may never ceaſe our Endeavours, till this Image of our deareſt Lord and Maſter be formed in our Hearts.

O Lord Jeſus, favourably behold theſe holy Deſires wherewith our Souls aſpire towards thee. Preſerve and maintain them; encourage and increaſe them; make them reſtleſs and unwearied,

wearied, till they be accompliſhed in the Enjoyments of this great Bleſſedneſs.

Thou who haſt begun a good Work in us, finiſh and complete it, we moſt humbly and earneſtly beſeech thee. Give us thy Grace continually for our ſeaſonable Relief and Succour, that we perſevering in Well-doing, may have a ſolid and lively Hope, in our Death, of coming to ſee thee in that high and holy Place, where thou liveſt and reigneſt for evermore.

As for all the Things of this Life, we moſt heartily refer ourſelves to thy Fatherly Wiſdom and Goodneſs, O Lord God Almighty, truſting thou wilt order for us that which is moſt convenient, and bleſs our honeſt Diligence with ſuch a competent Portion of them, that we may have the more Leiſure to give continual Praiſe, Honour, Bleſſing, and Thankſgiving to thee, whoſe Mercies endure for ever.

Accept, we pray thee, of our thankful Acknowledgments at this Time, for thoſe which this Day hath added to the reſt of thy Benefits, which thou haſt been continually heaping upon us ever ſince we were born. And let all the People of the Earth praiſe the Name of the Lord, which is highly exalted above all Bleſſing and Praiſe. O that all the Kingdoms of the World would become the Kingdoms of our Saviour Chriſt; and that all they who acknowledge his Authority, would religiouſly obey his holy Laws; that all Wars, Oppreſſion, and Cruelty, may ceaſe among Chriſtian People, that they

may live together in brotherly Love and Unity: Make our Sovereign and all his Realms happy, by great Increaſe of true Knowledge, Godlineſs, and Virtue every where. Bleſs all our Friends; forgive our Enemies; requite all the Kindneſs of our Benefactors; comfort every one of thy deſolate and afflicted Servants, and turn their Mourning and Heavineſs into Joy and Gladneſs at the laſt.

And now that we are going to repoſe ourſelves, keep us, we beſeech thee, and all belonging to us, in Safety. Refreſh our wearied Spirits with comfortable Reſt and Sleep; and when we awaken again in the Morning, direct our Thoughts immediately to thee, our merciful Preſerver; and help us to employ all our renewed Strength to thy Honour and Glory, according to thy Will declared by Chriſt Jeſus; in whoſe bleſſed Name and Words we commend ourſelves to thy infinite Mercies.

Our Father, &c.

PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES.

Wednesday Morning.

O Most great and mighty Lord, the Poſſeſſor of Heaven and Earth, all the Angels worſhip and adore thy incomprehenſible Majeſty with the humbleſt Reverence, and rejoice in rendering Praiſe, Bleſſing, and Thankſgiving to thee, the Father of Spirits: For thou haſt created all Things, and in Wiſdom haſt thou made them all, and ſpread thy tender Mercies over all thy Works. It is no leſs our Happineſs than our Duty to join our Hearts and Voices with that heavenly Hoſt, moſt gratefully to acknowledge thy Bounty to us among the reſt of thy Creatures, and thy particular Grace and Favour in our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, our moſt merciful Saviour and Redeemer. We can never ſufficiently admire that Love which gave him to die for us, and hath made him the Lord of Life and Glory; that he may be the Author of eternal Salvation to all thoſe that obey him. All the Love we have is too

little to give thee, to whom all our Services are due by a former Title. Our higheſt Praiſes fall infinitely ſhort of thy moſt excellent Majeſty; and we are aſhamed of the moſt affectionate Thanks we can render to thee for thoſe ineſtimable Benefits which thou haſt conferred on us, and ſo long continued to us.

How much greater Reaſon then have we to be abaſhed at our ſhameful Ingratitude and Diſobedience to thy Divine Majeſty; for which we are heartily ſorry, and do now moſt earneſtly repent ourſelves of it; unfeignedly reſolving and proteſting to be more faithful to thee for the Time to come. Pardon us, therefore, good Lord, and receive us unto thy Mercy: Accept of our renewed Vows to ſtudy and to do our Duties conſcientiouſly, towards thee and towards all Men. And as thou haſt excited thoſe Holy Deſires and Purpoſes in our Hearts, ſo enable us to perform them conſtantly in the whole Courſe of our Life.

Our bleſſed Saviour hath told us, thou wilt as readily give thy Holy Spirit to them that aſk it, as a Parent will give Bread unto his hungry Children; O Father of Mercies, let it be unto us according to his Word. Cheriſh theſe little Beginnings of Goodneſs which thou ſeeſt in our Souls, and proſper all our Endeavours to attain a greater Meaſure of it. And ſince at the beſt we are but unprofitable Servants, and can do no more than is our Duty to do, enable us to do every thing which thou haſt commanded

manded us, heartily, with good Will, and true Love to thy Service.

We know this is all that can, in the least, commend us to thy free Grace and Favour; and therefore we most humbly again devote ourselves to do thy Will, with a cordial Affection to it. We would ever approach unto thee with Delight and Pleasure, and feel it the Joy of our Hearts to think of thee, to praise thee, to give thee Thanks, and to offer ourselves with absolute Resignation to thee. O that Mercy may always please us as it pleaseth thee! That we may be strictly just and righteous; may chearfully pass by Injuries; freely deny all Desires of sinful Pleasures; willingly submit to thy Fatherly Corrections, and perform the Duties of our several Relations with Singleness of Heart. Render us so mindful of the great Love of our Lord and Master Christ, that we may be zealously concerned for his Glory, and use our utmost Diligence to do him and his Religion some Honour in the World; delighting to commemorate his Death and Passion, making a joyful Sacrifice of our Souls and Bodies to him, and desiring most earnestly that his *Kingdom may come*, and all Mankind submit themselves to his Government.

Fulfil, most merciful Lord, all our Petitions; and as thou hast mightily protected us and our Dwellings, this last Night, from Fire and Thieves, and whatsoever might disturb our

Repose, (blessed be thy Goodness) so accompany us all this Day with thy Blessing, that we may please thee in Body and Soul, and be safe under thy Defence, who art nigh to all those that call upon thee, that call upon thee in Truth.

And, O that all those who are forgetful of their Duty to thee, may be awakened to a lively Sense of all thy Benefits, and fill the whole World with thy Praises. Stir up especially the Minds of all Christian People, to enquire after and follow the Truth, as it is in Jesus; abandoning all Vice and Wickedness, and exercising themselves to have Consciences void of Offence towards thee, and towards all Men: And dispose the Hearts of all thy Kings and Princes, to make themselves the greatest Examples of Christian Piety to all others. Bless these Kingdoms, and endue our Sovereign with such excellent Wisdom and holy Zeal for thine Honour and Glory, that we may see many good Days under his Government. O that true Religion, Justice, Mercy, Brotherly-kindness, and all Things else that are Praise-worthy, may so flourish among us, that we may enjoy the Blessings of Peace and Plenty, and there may be no complaining in our Streets.

We recommend to thee all our Friends and Neighbours; all the Poor, the Sick, and other afflicted Persons; desiring those Mercies for them which we should ask for ourselves, were we in their Condition: *O God, whose never failing*

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ing Providence ordereth all Things both in Heaven and Earth, put away from them and us, we humbly beseech thee, all hurtful Things, and give us those Things which be profitable for us, according to the large Declarations which thou hast made of thy abundant Goodness to Mankind in our Lord Jesus; in whose Words we conclude our humble Supplications unto thee, saying,

Our Father, &c.

At Night.

ALmighty and everlasting God, the Sovereign Lord of all Creatures in Heaven and Earth, and our most merciful and gracious Father in thy Son Christ Jesus, we most heartily acknowledge, that our Beings and all the Comforts of them depend on thee, the Fountain of all Good. We have nothing but what we have received thence, and is owing entirely to thy free and bounteous Love, O most blessed Creator, and to the unsearchable Riches of thy Grace, O most blessed Redeemer.

To thee therefore be given by us and all Creatures, whom thou hast made to know how great and how good thou art, all Honour, Glory, and Praise; all Love, Service, and Obedience, as long as we have any being. *It is but meet, right, and our bounden Duty, that*

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we ſhould at all Times, and in all Places, give Thanks unto thee, O Lord; and devoutly reſign both Soul and Body to thee, to be abſolutely governed and ruled according to thy holy Will and Pleaſure. We are heartily ſorry that we have not done it from the very Beginning of our Lives till this Time. We are aſhamed to think of our Injuſtice and Ingratitude, in following our own Deſires ſo long, and rendering ourſelves no ſooner, moſt humbly obedient in all Things to thee. Our Hopes are only in thoſe infinite Mercies which have ſpared us, notwithſtanding, and opened our Eyes to ſee our Errors, and touched our Hearts with ſome Senſe of our Duty.

And we hope in them not only for a Pardon, which we earneſtly implore according to thy gracious Promiſes made in Chriſt Jeſus, but for the Power of thy Holy Spirit, to further and promote thoſe godly Reſolutions which we feel already in our Hearts, to live as becomes thy Creatures, and as becomes the Diſciples of Jeſus Chriſt, who were early dedicated to thee, and have often ſince vowed themſelves to thy Service. As thou haſt made us to underſtand the Reaſonableneſs and Goodneſs of all thy Laws, ſo incline our Wills to be more and more in love with them, till they be writ upon our Hearts. Stir up our Wills to *love them exceedingly*, and to cleave unto them as our very Life. Let thy Grace continually prevent and follow us, to keep alive ſuch a powerful

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Sense of thee, and of the Love of our Lord and Saviour in our Minds, that we may naturally fear and reverence thee, and study to be approved of thee, and beloved by thee, and account it our highest Perfection and Happiness to be like thee.

O that it may ever be the Joy of our Hearts to be Righteous, as thou art Righteous; to be Merciful, as thou, our Heavenly Father, art Merciful; to be Holy, as thou, who hast called us, art Holy, in all manner of Conversation; to be endued with thy Divine Wisdom, and to resemble thee in Faithfulness and Truth. O that the Memory of our blessed Saviour, and his admirable Example, may be always dear unto us; that we may chearfully follow him in his Humility, Meekness, Patience, Contentedness, Peaceableness, and Delight to do thy Will, O God, in every Thing as he did. Accept, we most humbly beseech thee, of these Desires of our Souls after thee; and graciously assist and strengthen them, according as we unfeignedly offer them up unto thee.

Accept likewise of our Thanks for thy merciful Preservation of us all this Day; by which we are come in Safety to the Conclusion of it, and are here before thee with a new Load of thy Benefits, added to other innumerable Blessings which thou hast formerly bestowed. We are bold again likewise to commit ourselves unto thee this Night; and to trust in thy merciful Protection and Care over us, when we

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can take no Care of ourſelves, or any thing elſe belonging to us. Defend us from all the Powers of Darkneſs, from all evil Men, from Fire, and all ſuch ſad Accidents: And raiſe up our Spirits, together with our Bodies, in the Morning, to ſuch a vigorous Senſe of thy continued Goodneſs, as may provoke us all the Day long to an unwearied Diligence in Well-doing.

And the ſame Mercies that we beg for ourſelves, we deſire for the reſt of Mankind; eſpecially for all thoſe who are called by the Name of Chriſt. O that every Member of that Body, of which he is the Head, may do their Duties with all Fidelity, according to the ſeveral Offices to which thou haſt aſſigned them. That Kings may be tender-hearted, as the Fathers of their Countries; and all their Subjects may be dutiful and obedient to them as their Children; that the Paſtors of the Church may feed their Flock with true Wiſdom and Underſtanding, and the People all may ſubmit unto them, and follow their godly Counſels; that the Rich and Mighty may have Compaſſion on the Poor and Miſerable; and all ſuch diſtreſſed People may bleſs the Rich, and rejoice in the Proſperity of thoſe that are above them. Give Huſbands and Wives, Parents and Children, Maſters and Servants, the Grace to behave themſelves ſo in their ſeveral Relations, that they may adorn the Doctrine of God our Saviour in all Things; and being an

an Honour to his Religion here, may receive immortal Honour and Glory hereafter from the Hands of Christ Jesus; in whose holy Name and Words we continue to beseech thy Grace and Mercy towards us, and all thy People every where, saying,

Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name; Thy Kingdom come: Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven: Give us this Day our daily Bread; And forgive us our Trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into Temptation, but deliver us from Evil, &c.

PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES.

Thurſday Morning.

O Lord, the High and Holy One, whoſe *Glory is above the Earth and Heavens*[z], we thy Creatures proſtrate ourſelves in the humbleſt Adorations of thee; aſcribing to thee all Power, Wiſdom, Riches, Might, Majeſty, and Dominion; and acknowledging, that to thee of right belongs all Worſhip, Bleſſing, Thankſgiving, and Praiſe; together with all Honour, Love, Service, and Obedience for evermore. Bleſſed be thine Omnipotent Goodneſs which hath advanced us to ſuch a Degree of Being, that we are capable to look back to thee from whom we come; to know thee, to love thee, to acknowledge thy great Bounty towards us, and to reſemble thee in Wiſdom and Goodneſs. All that is within us bleſſeth thy Holy Name, for breathing into us immortal Spirits, that we may eternally admire thee, praiſe thee, love thee, and joyfully render

[z] Pſal. cxlviii. 13.

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thoſe grateful Acknowledgments which we owe unto thee. We can never ſufficiently magnify thy Mercies towards us; eſpecially thoſe in the Lord Jeſus, in whom thy Grace hath ſo exceedingly abounded, as to ſurpaſs not only our Deſerts, but the largeſt of our Deſires.

Bleſſed, bleſſed, for ever bleſſed be thy Fatherly Goodneſs, who haſt ſent him from Heaven ſo unexpectedly to viſit us vile Wretches, who dwell in Houſes of Clay, whoſe Foundation is in the Duſt. Lord! what is Man, that thou art mindful of him? or the Son of Man, that thou didſt thus viſit him? We thank thee, according to our poor Ability, from the very Bottom of our Hearts, for his Manifeſtation in our Fleſh; for the charitable Teſtimonies he gave of his Love to Mankind in the Courſe of his Life; for that aſtoniſhing Grace, in ſubmitting himſelf to die for us; for his glorious Reſurrection and Aſcenſion into Heaven; for the Sovereign Power and Authority which thou haſt given him at thy right Hand; for his compaſſionate Interceſſion for us, and the Aſſurance we have received of his being the King of Glory, and of his continued Kindneſs to us, by the coming of the Holy Ghoſt. We will never ceaſe to bleſs thee for that great Salvation *which was firſt preached by the Lord, and was confirmed by them that heard him; and for the Witneſs which thou beareſt to them, both with Signs and Wonders, and with divers Miracles and Gifts*

Gifts of the Holy Ghoſt, according to thy own Will[a].

We rejoice in the Light of thy holy Goſpel; that we ſee the Way to be happy both by the Doctrine and Example of thy Son Jeſus; that we have the Encouragement of his precious Promiſes; and ſuch good Hope of Remiſſion of Sin, and eternal Life, in the Day when he ſhall judge the World in Righteouſneſs. O how much are we bound unto thee for that comfortable Hope which thou haſt given us, of ſeeing our dear Saviour in all his Glory, and being there where he is, and reigning with him for ever! We again render thee our moſt hearty Thanks for that everlaſting Conſolation and good Hope, through Grace, which thou haſt given us; and for all thoſe Benefits likewiſe which thou art pleaſed to beſtow upon us, to make our Stay here on Earth the more convenient and delightful to us. We are every Way obliged to thee, beyond all that we are able to expreſs or conceive. Thou feedeſt us, and cloatheſt us; thou preſerveſt our Health and our Strength; thou haſt delivered us from innumerable Dangers; and when thou haſt chaſtiſed us, it hath been in great Mercy and Clemency, and not according to our Deſerving.

O that all the World would ſhew forth thy Praiſe, and devote themſelves to the Service of our Lord. Let all Kings of the Earth

[a] Heb. ii. 3, 4.

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ſubmit themſelves unto him, and glory in the Name of his obedient Subjects. High and Low, Rich and Poor, let them praiſe the Name of the Lord, from this Time forth and for evermore: For *great is the Lord, and greatly to be praiſed*; eſpecially *in the Aſſembly of the Saints*, and by thy Church and Houſhold; which we beſeech thee to keep, and to continue in thy true Religion. *As thou ſheweſt to them that be in Error the Light of thy Truth, to the Intent that they may return into the Way of Righteouſneſs; ſo grant unto all them that are admitted into the Fellowſhip of Chriſt's Religion, that they may eſchew thoſe Things that are contrary to their Profeſſion, and follow all ſuch Things as are agreeable to the ſame.*

Accept, moſt gracious God, of theſe unfeigned Deſires of us thy Servants, who for our Parts entirely dedicate ourſelves, both Souls and Bodies, unto thee, reſolving in all Things to walk worthy of thee, who haſt called us to thy Kingdom and Glory, and bleſſed us alſo with many other good Things, which make this Life to be a more eaſy Paſſage to a better. We will never forget how much we are indebted to thee, but ſtudy to expreſs our grateful Remembrance of thy Mercies, by living *ſoberly, righteouſly, and godly in this preſent World; looking for that bleſſed Hope, and the glorious Appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jeſus Chriſt* [b]. Favour, we pray thee, theſe Holy

[b] Tit. ii. 12, 13.

Purpoſes,

Purposes, with the constant Assistance of thy good Spirit; that we may be able to accomplish that we have begun, and to perfect Holiness in thy Fear. Help us to *add to our Faith, Virtue; and to Virtue, Knowledge; and to Knowledge, Temperance; and to Temperance, Patience; and to Patience, Godliness; and to Godliness, Brotherly-kindness; and to Brotherly-kindness, Charity. That these things being in us, and abounding, they may make us to be neither barren, nor unfruitful in the Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ* [c].

Preserve us this Day especially, that we swerve not presently from these pious Resolutions, but may give such Proof of their Sincerity, by our being stedfast and immoveable in all Well-doing, notwithstanding any Temptation to the contrary; that we may have the better Hope we shall persevere to the very End, through thy continued Grace in Christ Jesus; in whose Words we desire all that thou seest needful either for our Souls or Bodies, for ourselves or others, saying,

Our Father, &c.

[c] 2 Pet. i. 5—8.

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At Night.

WE are here again proſtrate before thee, O Lord of Heaven and Earth, to join ourſelves with all that Holy Company, *who reſt not Day and Night, ſaying, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive Glory, Honour, and Power; for thou haſt created all Things, and for thy Pleaſure they are and were created*[d]. Bleſſed be thy divine Goodneſs, which hath made the Children of Men but little lower than the Angels; and crowned us with ſuch Glory and Honour, that we are capable to accompany that heavenly Hoſt, in giving continual Thanks and Praiſe unto thee. Praiſed be thy Name that we are now alive; and that we have the Uſe of our Reaſon and Underſtanding; and enjoy ſo many of the Comforts and Conveniences of this preſent Life; and have attained a good Hope through Chriſt Jeſus, of being immortally happy.

O how great was thy Love which ſent him into the World to direct us in the Way to that Happineſs, by his holy Doctrine and Life; and to be a Propitiation for our Sins by his Death, and to *be the firſt that ſhould riſe from the Dead, and ſhould ſhew Light unto the World*[e]. We rejoice in that Light of Life; we moſt chearfully devote ourſelves to be the faithful Diſci-

[d] Rev. iv. 8, 11. [e] Acts xxvi. 23.

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ples of him, the Prince of Peace, the Lord of Life and Glory. It is our Happineſs, as well as our Duty, to be governed by him, and obey his Commands. We are ſenſible that they are all equal, juſt, and good; and that thou haſt done us an infinite Kindneſs, in teaching us to deny Ungodlineſs and worldly Luſts, and to live ſoberly, righteouſly, and godly in this preſent World.

And therefore we here again moſt heartily ſurrender our Wills to thine; deſiring that we may unchangeably cleave unto it, with the greateſt and moſt entire Love and Affection to all its Commands. O that there may abide for ever in us ſuch a ſtrong and powerful Senſe of thy mighty Love towards us in Chriſt Jeſus, as may conſtrain us freely and willingly to pleaſe thee in the conſtant Exerciſe of Piety and Devotion, Righteouſneſs and Mercy, Temperance and Charity, Meekneſs and Patience, Truth and Fidelity; together with ſuch an humble, contented, and peaceable Spirit, as may adorn the Religion of our Lord and Maſter. O God, grant that theſe holy Deſires and Inclinations may never die, nor languiſh in our Hearts, but be kept alive in their Vigour and Force, by the perpetual Inſpirations of the Holy Ghoſt.

We wait upon thee for that Promiſe of our Saviour to aſſiſt and promote our ſincere Endeavours, to preſerve our Souls unblameable in the Love of thee, our God, and of all Mankind.

Mankind. We heartily deſire the Proſperity and Welfare of every one of them, as well as our own. O that they were all ſo wiſe and happy, as to acknowledge and ſubmit themſelves to thee, by obeying thy holy Laws. Eſpecially we deſire that all Kings and Princes may become our Saviour's Subjects; and conforming themſelves to his Will, may be rendered thereby moſt excellent Examples to all other Men. Endue our Sovereign with Abundance of the Spirit of Counſel and Judgment, and the Fear of our Lord. Make him happy in wiſe and faithful Miniſters; in loyal and peaceable Subjects; and in the good Succeſs of all his Enterprizes for the Honour of Religion, and his People's Tranquillity. We commend to thy Mercies all our Friends, Relations, and Benefactors; deſiring that all who have done us Good, may be requited an hundred-fold here, and obtain at laſt eternal Life. And all that have done Evil to us, as we heartily forgive them, ſo we earneſtly deſire they may obtain thy gracious Pardon: Together with theſe, we remember likewiſe all that are in Affliction, whatſoever it be, either of Soul or Body; to whom we wiſh Eaſe and Comfort, and ſeaſonable Relief; that they may rejoice in the End, for the Days wherein they have ſeen Adverſity.

In theſe holy Thoughts and Deſires we now are bold to commend ourſelves to thy Protection this Night, who haſt preſerved and bleſſed us (we

(we moſt thankfully acknowledge) all the Day paſt. We repoſe ourſelves in the Belief of thy good Providence; with which we entruſt ourſelves, and all belonging to us. We would lay down ourſelves to ſleep, with Hearts full of Love to thee, and humble Faith and Hope in thee, deſiring we may awake again in the ſame manner, and find that we are ſtill with thee. Diſpoſe us, good Lord, by the Reſt thou giveſt us, always to ſerve thee more zealouſly with our renewed Spirits; that after the few Days and Nights we have to paſs in this World, we may come to thy eternal Reſt, together with Chriſt Jeſus; in whoſe bleſſed Name and Words we ſtill recommend ourſelves to thy Service.

Our Father, &c.

PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES.

Friday Morning.

O God, moſt bleſſed for ever! whoſe the World is, and the Fulneſs thereof, who needeſt not any Thing that we can give thee, for thou giveſt us whatſoever we enjoy; we proſtrate ourſelves before thee, to make ſuch poor Expreſſions as we are able, of the Senſe we have of thine infinite Bounty to us. It is but fit and meet that we ſhould acknowledge and praiſe thee, though we can thereby add nothing unto thee. It is our Happineſs to have a grateful Remembrance of thy Goodneſs to us, and to be knit unto thee in hearty Love and dutiful Affection all the Days of our Life.

We thank thee, therefore, O Lord of Heaven and Earth, who haſt loaded us continually with thy Benefits: They are great and many more than we can number, both towards our Bodies, and towards our Souls; for the Comfort of this Life, and our everlaſting Salvation in the Life to come. For ever adored be thy

Love in Chriſt Jeſus, who haſt given us an undoubted Teſtimony of thy Fatherly Care and Providence over us, and encouraged us, though we have offended thee, to addreſs ourſelves to thee with good Hope of thy gracious Acceptance of us into Friendſhip with thee again.

We love thee, O Lord, above all Things. We freely offer our Spirits, Souls, and Bodies to thee, with moſt ſincere Devotion, and the heartieſt Affection to thy Service. There is nothing we deſire and long for ſo much, as to have a lively Senſe of thy marvellous Love always poſſeſſing our Hearts, that may ſtill conſtrain us to love thee, to obey thee, to truſt in thee, to be content with the Portion thy Love allots unto us, and to rejoice even in the Midſt of all the Troubles of this Life.

We cannot chooſe, O Lord, when we ſeriouſly think of what thou haſt done for us, but abſolutely commit ourſelves to thee, and entirely confide in thee for the Time to come. Since thou haſt *not ſpared thy own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how ſhalt thou not with him alſo freely give us all things*[t]? We depend upon thee eſpecially for the Grace of thy Holy Spirit; for the Power of which in our Hearts exciting theſe holy Deſires and godly Reſolutions, we moſt humbly thank thy divine Majeſty. O that we may feel it perpetually bearing us up by the Strength of our moſt holy Faith, and by the Power of Love

[t] Rom. viii. 32.

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and Hope, above all the Temptations which at any Time assault us. That we may keep ourselves unspotted from the World, and no Appetite of Pleasure, of Glory, or of Riches, may ever carry us from our Duty; but we may still cleave to thee in Righteousness, Purity, Humility, Charity, and all other divine Virtues, of which our Lord hath given us so great an Example.

For his Sake we hope for a favourable Acceptance of these our Praises, Acknowledments, and Prayers. For we must be still beholden to thine infinite Goodness, for the least Regard to any Thing that we can do, who are but unprofitable Servants. And we wait upon the same Goodness for thy Blessing, to accompany us all this Day, that we may do nothing but what we know is pleasing to thee, and may be so prospered, protected, and assisted by thine Almighty Power, that we may return with our Hearts full of Love and Thankfulness to thee in the Evening, again to praise and magnify thy continued Kindness to us.

Unto which we commend most heartily the rest of Mankind, desiring that they may all know thee, the true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent; whom to know is eternal Life. And O that all Christians would walk worthy of thy high and heavenly Calling, that others, seeing their good Works, may be invited thereby to acknowledge and glorify thee our heavenly Father: More particularly, we desire

ſuch an Increaſe of Wiſdom and Goodneſs to all Chriſtian Kings and Princes, that all their Subjects may praiſe thee for the ſenſible Fruits of their Care and good Government, and ſuch a plentiful Portion of the Spirit of thy Grace to all Chriſtian Biſhops, Prieſts, and Deacons, that they may be eminent Inſtruments of thy Honour, and their People's Good, by the Authority of their Doctrine and their godly Example. Make our Sovereign and us all happy in each other, by the faithful Diſcharge of our ſeveral Duties, in the Places wherein thy moſt high Wiſdom hath ſet us.

And we deſire the Comfort of thoſe that mourn, the Eaſe of thoſe that are in Pain, the Health of the Sick, and Releaſe of poor Priſoners and Captives, the Quiet and Satisfaction of thoſe that are in Trouble and Anguiſh of Mind, and the true Content of all Men, in whatſoever Condition they are; that we may be all continually giving Thanks to thee, the Father of Mercies, for *the Joy thou haſt ſet before us*, and the Hope we have, by running our Chriſtian Race with Patience, to come to that bleſſed Place into which *Jeſus our Fore-runner is already entered for us*; by whom we continue to deſire, in his own Words, that thou mayeſt be glorified every where in our Well-doing, ſaying, as he hath taught us,

Our Father, &c.

At Night.

O Lord, the Almighty Creator and Governor of the World, *how great and manifold are thy Works? in Wiſdom haſt thou made them all. The Day is thine, the Night alſo is thine; thou haſt prepared the Light and the Sun* [g]. We thy Creatures, a ſmall Part of Mankind, proſtrate ourſelves before thee this Evening, in the humbleſt Adoration of thy Divine Majeſty, praiſing thy incomprehenſible Perfections, and rendering thee our Thanks for all the Benefits thou haſt beſtowed on the whole World, eſpecially on us whom thou haſt called to the Knowledge of thy Grace in Chriſt Jeſus. It is a marvellous Love wherewith thou haſt loved us. Thou haſt not dealt ſo with all People; and as for thy great and precious Promiſes, they have not known them.

We are bound therefore more particularly to offer up unto thee continually ſpiritual Sacrifices by Chriſt Jeſus, and to laud and bleſs thy great and glorious Name in the Behalf of ourſelves and the reſt of Mankind; among whom thou haſt left innumerable Teſtimonies of thy careful Providence, in that *thou doeſt them good, and giveſt them Rain from Heaven, and fruitful Seaſons, filling their Hearts with Food and Gladneſs* [h]. We praiſe thee, we bleſs thee, we magnify and extol thy wiſe and powerful Goodneſs,

[g] Pſal. civ. 24. lxxiv. 16. [h] Acts xiv. 17.

we thank thee for thy never-ceaſing Bounty towards us; eſpecially that thou haſt vouchſafed to ſend Jeſus Chriſt to reſtore us, by his appearing among us, and his humbling himſelf to the Death for us, and his glorious Reſurrection from the Grave, and Aſcenſion on high to a bleſſed Hope of thy Mercy unto eternal Life.

We can do no leſs than devote ourſelves, Souls, and Bodies, eternally to thee, returning what we have received from thee, back again with the greateſt Love, and moſt grateful Acknowledgments. Accept, we pray thee, O moſt gracious and merciful Father, of this ſmall Oblation we make thee, of our moſt hearty and unfeigned Reſolutions to worſhip and ſerve thee in the conſtant Exerciſe of Righteouſneſs, Mercy, Meekneſs, Patience, Humility, and Purity, with whatſoever is lovely, and of good Report. And we humbly beg, thy Holy Spirit may conſtantly accompany us; enabling us to think of theſe Things, to cleave unto them, to delight in them, and to perſevere in a free and willing Performance of all our Duty towards thee, and towards all Men, to our Lives End.

And we moſt heartily deſire the reſt of Mankind may at laſt be ſo happy as to become acquainted with the exceeding Riches of thy Grace in Chriſt. O that *thy Ways may be known upon Earth, and thy ſaving Health among all Nations*;

Nations[i]; *that all the Gentiles may rejoice with thy People, and we may with one Mind and one Mouth glorify thee our God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*[k]. O that all Idolatry and Ungodliness, all Cruelty and Filthiness, all Rapine and Violence, may be abolished and rooted out of the Earth; and true Piety, Righteousness, Holiness, and Brotherly-kindness, may flourish in the room thereof. For which End, we beseech thee, endue all Kings and Princes, especially those that are Christians, with a great Sense of thy Sovereign Authority over all, that they may humbly obey thee, as they desire others should obey them, and govern all their People with great Wisdom, Uprightness, and a tender compassionate Care of their Welfare. O that no Covetousness, Ambition, or Revenge, may rule in any Hearts, provoking them to War and Bloodshed, but that there may be great Peace in all Lands, by observing the holy Laws of the Prince of Peace, Christ Jesus.

More particularly we recommend unto thy Blessing, these Kingdoms wherein we live; beseeching thee to be merciful to our Sins, in giving us Grace to repent of them, and to bring forth Fruits meet for Repentance and Amendment of Life. Bless our Sovereign, and all that are employed under him, either in spiritual or civil Affairs, with all those Graces which are necessary for the right Discharge

[i] Psal. lxvii. 2. [k] Rom. xv. 6, 10.

of their Duties in ſuch high Places. Proſper all their pious Endeavours, for the Good either of Mens' Souls or outward Eſtates, that true Religion and Virtue increaſing, and all Ungodlineſs and Vice being put to Shame, we may become a renowned Nation, and a Praiſe in the Earth. We commend to thee alſo, O Father of Mercies, all thoſe who are in a diſtreſſed and ſorrowful Condition, moſt earneſtly deſiring their ſeaſonable Relief and Comfort, with their Releaſe from thoſe Troubles, when thou pleaſeſt.

And now that we are going to lay down ourſelves to ſleep, we put ourſelves and our Habitations, with all that belong unto us, into thy moſt gracious Protection, hoping thou wilt take care of us, when we cannot ſo much as think how to ſecure ourſelves from any Danger that may approach us. Thou haſt been our Helper, Keeper, and Defender; therefore under the Shadow of thy Wings will we ſtill rejoice.

When we cloſe our Eyes, let theſe holy Thoughts of thee, and Affections towards thee, ſtill remain in us, and poſſeſs our Hearts, that they may awake again with us in the Morning, and ſend up our Souls in renewed Love, and Thanks, and Praiſe to thy Divine Majeſty, by our Bleſſed Saviour and Redeemer Chriſt Jeſus, in whoſe Words we continue to implore thy Mercies towards us;

Our Father, &c.

PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES.

Saturday Morning.

O Lord, all thy Works praiſe thee, and declare the Greatneſs of thy Majeſty, Power, Wiſdom, and Bounty, which ſurpaſs all Underſtanding. *Thou art good unto all, and thy tender Mercies are over all thy Works: Thou art holy in all thy Ways, and righteous in all thy Doings; and keepeſt Truth for ever. Thy Kingdom is an everlaſting Kingdom, and thy Dominion endureth throughout all Generations. We all decay and periſh; the Heavens themſelves wax old like a Garment, but thou art the ſame, and thy Years ſhall have no End.*

We adore thee, O Lord moſt High, and moſt willingly join our Hearts and Voices this Morning, together with all the Hoſt of Heaven and Earth, to laud and praiſe thy glorious Name, and give Thanks unto thee, whoſe Mercy endureth for ever. We think ourſelves happy that we know thee, and that we live under the Care and Providence of thine Al-

mighty and moſt wiſe Goodneſs; and that we have a good Hope, not only of thy Bleſſing and Favour here, but of Life for evermore.

Bleſſed be thy Name for ſending thy Son Jeſus to give us theſe Hopes, by his Death and Reſurrection, and Aſcenſion to Heaven, and the Coming of the Holy Ghoſt. Bleſſed be thy Name who haſt trained us up in his Religion, and given us the Means and Opportunities to know that Love of thine which paſſes Knowledge. We thank thee for all the bleſſed Operations and Motions of thy Holy Spirit in our Hearts, and that thou haſt ſo early inclined us to fear thee, and love thee, and place our Contentment and Satisfaction in thy Love and Favour, which is better than Life itſelf. And that thou haſt alſo added a Number of other Mercies, for our comfortable Subſiſtence in this World, having granted us ſo long Health, Peace, and Plenty; a great many Friends, loving Relations and Acquaintance; and continued the Enjoyment of them to this Day, though we be ſo unworthy of the leaſt of thy Favours. We thank thee, O God, that now thou haſt graciouſly renewed thy Kindneſs unto us, in protecting us the laſt Night from all the Powers of Darkneſs, and every evil Accident, and raiſing us up this Morning in Health and Safety, to praiſe thy Goodneſs.

More eſpecially we praiſe thee for any Senſe we have of theſe thy Mercies, humbly waiting on thee for the Increaſe of it, and for thy gra-

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cious Pardon of all our Unthankfulneſs and undutiful Behaviour towards thee, which we moſt heartily bewail, and will endeavour to amend.

And for that End we implore the Help of thy Holy Spirit, which our Lord hath encouraged us to aſk of thee, and told us thou wilt not deny to thoſe that earneſtly ſeek it, and continue to knock importunately at the Gate of Mercy for it. We believe all his Promiſes to be faithful and true; and therefore humbly depend on thy mighty Power to ſtrengthen and enable us to do our Duty towards thee, and towards all Men, with Care, and Diligence, and Zeal, and Perſeverance to the End. Endue us, good Lord, with a Spirit of true and fervent Devotion to thee our Creator and Redeemer; with upright, juſt, and charitable Hearts to all our Neighbours; and with temperate, contented, and humble Minds, in every Condition and State of Life, unto which thou ſhalt pleaſe to call us.

Help us to be meek and gentle in our Converſation; prudent and diſcreet in ordering all our Affairs; good and uſeful in every Relation; obſervant of thy Fatherly Providence in every Thing that befals us; grateful for thy Benefits; patient under thy Chaſtiſements, and readily diſpoſed to every good Word and Work. Preſerve in us a conſtant Remembrance of thine All-ſeeing Eye; of the many Promiſes and Vows we have made of Fidelity to thee; of

thine inestimable Love in Christ Jesus, whereof thou hast given us so many Pledges; and of the great Account we must give to him, the Judge of all, at the Day of his Appearing; that so we may continue *stedfast and unmoveable, and be abundant in the Work of the Lord, knowing that our Labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.*

Deliver us, we beseech thee, from all inordinate Cares and Desires; from vain Hopes, and causeless Fears; and so dispose our Hearts, that Death itself may not be dreadful to us, but we may welcome it with a chearful Countenance, when and howsoever it shall approach.

O that our Hearts may be so firmly settled and established in the true Religion, and our Minds kept so free from all Delusions, that nothing may affright us, or shake our Constancy, but we may rather choose to die, than dishonour our Saviour, who died for us. We resign ourselves to thy Wisdom and Goodness, who knowest what is best for us, hoping thou wilt *never suffer us to be tempted above what we are able, and wilt with the Temptation also make a Way to escape, that we may be able to bear it*[1].

We commend unto thee, likewise, all Mankind, especially thy Church and chosen People; these Kingdoms more particularly, of which we are Members; that we may be all faithful in our Lord Christ, and zealous of good Works. Bless our Sovereign, his Counsellors,

[1] 1 Cor. x. 13.

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his Miniſters, and all employed in public Buſineſs, whether Spiritual or Civil; that they may be conſcientiouſly induſtrious, and whatſoever they do, may proſper for the Good of all thoſe who are committed to their Charge. Be gracious to all our Friends, and thoſe who are dear unto us. Keep us all in thy Fear, and Love, and Obedience, while we live; and make us willing to die, and to be with Chriſt, which is beſt of all. Guide us, good Lord, and govern us by the ſame Spirit of Wiſdom and Goodneſs, that we may be ſo united to thee here, as not to be eternally ſeparated, when thou art pleaſed to order our Departure hence: But that we all at laſt may have a happy Meeting in the other and better World, to dwell with thee in Love and Joy that ſhall never die, through Chriſt Jeſus our bleſſed Lord and Saviour, in whoſe Words we ſtill beſeech thee to hear us.

Our Father, &c.

At NIGHT.

ALL Honour and Glory, Thanks and Praiſe, Love and Service be rendered by us, and all other reaſonable Creatures, to thy great and glorious Majeſty, O Lord, who haſt brought us into the World, and preſerved our Life moſt tenderly to this Moment, and made it

it eaſy and comfortable to us by more Mercies than we can number: And to all the former haſt added thoſe of this Day, which we have paſſed in Peace and Health, and Safety; bleſſed be thy never-ceaſing Goodneſs. Above all, we acknowledge thy unconceivable Love in Chriſt Jeſus, by whom thou haſt made a gracious Proviſion for our Souls, and their everlaſting Happineſs in the other World, having ſent him to us with the Promiſes of eternal Life, and to be the Way and Director to it; and given him to die, that he might ſeal his Promiſes with his Blood; and raiſed him again from the Dead, that our Faith and Hope might be in thee, O God.

Eye hath not ſeen, nor Ear heard, neither did enter into the Heart of Man, the Things which thou haſt prepared for them that love thee [m]. We love thee, O Lord, and give ourſelves, both Souls and Bodies, to thee; moſt earneſtly deſiring to be inſpired with ſuch a Senſe of thy infinite Goodneſs, that we may love thee more, and ſerve thee better, with all our Heart, and with all our Soul, and with all our Strength.

We confeſs, we have not walked worthy of the great Benefits we have received; and therefore may juſtly fear thou ſhouldeſt with-hold thy tender Mercies, and ſhut up thy Loving-kindneſs in Diſpleaſure. But the Deſires and Holy Reſolutions thou haſt wrought, and con-

[m] 1 Cor. ii. 9.

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tinueſt in our Souls, to amend and become more ſtill more fruitful in all good Works; encourage us to hope in thee for Pardon through the Blood of Jeſus Chriſt; and for the Aſſiſtance of thy Holy Spirit, to enable us to accompliſh that which we intend and purpoſe, to grow more and more in Wiſdom and Knowledge, and in Righteouſneſs, and true Holineſs.

O that this Image of thine may appear every Day fairer and more beautiful before thee, and in the Sight of all Men! That ſo we may adorn the Religion we profeſs, and be a good Example unto others, and have a ſolid Foundation of Peace and Comfort in our own Hearts, and be able to hope in thee for thy future Mercy in Chriſt Jeſus, even unto eternal Life. We commend ourſelves to thy wonted Grace; and in a Senſe of what thou haſt done already for us, and what thou haſt promiſed to do, depend on thy Goodneſs for what thou ſeeſt profitable and conducing to our chiefeſt Good; referring ourſelves wholly to thy wiſe Will and Pleaſure; and reſolve contentedly to ſubmit to thy Appointments, thankfully to receive thy Mercies, and to reſt ſatisfied with our Portion, whatſoever it be that thou ordereſt for us. Make us but ſtedfaſt in thy Faith and Love, unwearied in Well-doing, patient and conſtant under all Sufferings, full of a lively Hope in thy Mercy, and willing to die when, and as thou pleaſeſt, and we have enough.

In Confidence that thou heareſt us, and art every where, and never ſlumbereſt nor ſleepeſt, we commit ourſelves to the Cuſtody of thy watchful Providence this Night, to be ſecured and protected by thee, when we cannot at all attend to our own Preſervation. May it pleaſe thy Goodneſs to give this whole Family a comfortable Reſt and Repoſe; to defend this Habitation, and all about us, from Fire, and ſuch like ſad Accidents; to deliver us from the Power of evil Spirits, and of evil Men, and to raiſe us in Health and Chearfulneſs to praiſe thee, and to glorify thee, both in Soul and Body the next Day.

Then will we ſing of thy Power, yea, we will ſing aloud of thy Mercy in the Morning, becauſe thou haſt been our Defence, and our Refuge at all Times. Unto thee, O our Strength, will we ſing; for God is our Defence, and the God of our Mercy[n]. *We will praiſe the Lord with our whole Heart, in the Aſſembly of the Upright, and in the Congregation*[o]. *For it is a good Thing to give Thanks unto the Lord, and to ſing Praiſes unto thy Name, O moſt High, to ſhew forth thy Loving-kindneſs in the Morning, and thy Faithfulneſs every Night*[p].

The Earth is thine, and the Fulneſs thereof; the World, and they that dwell therein. Let all the People praiſe thee, O God, let all the People praiſe thee[q]. *O that all the Ends of the World would remember and turn unto the Lord, and all*

[n] Pſal. lix. 16, 17. [o] Pſal. cxi. 1. [p] Pſal. xcii. 1, 2. [q] Pſal. xxiv. 1.

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the Kindreds of the Nations worſhip before him. For the Kingdom is the Lord's, and he is the Governor among the Nations[r]. Bleſs eſpecially all Chriſtian Kings and Princes, that it may *be an Abomination to commit Wickedneſs, and their Thrones may be eſtabliſhed by Righteouſneſs*[s]. And incline the Hearts of all thoſe who have any Authority in theſe Kingdoms, to love and hold faſt thy true Religion, and to live according to it; that *by Mercy and Truth the King may be preſerved, and his Throne be upholden by Mercy. Let him faithfully judge the Poor, that his Throne may be eſtabliſhed for ever*[t].

We heartily deſire the Eaſe, Peace, and Satisfaction of all thoſe who are in Pain, Trouble, and Perplexity; and that all poor miſerable People may find Supply of their Wants from thy Bounty, and the Charity of thoſe on whom thou haſt beſtowed Plenty and Abundance. We humbly alſo wait for thy Bleſſing upon all our Relations and Friends, truſting in thee for ſuch a Meaſure of Health, and all other good Things as thou judgeſt uſeful for us; and eſpecially that the Lord Jeſus *will deliver us from every evil Work, and preſerve us to his heavenly Kingdom: To whom be Glory for ever and ever*[u]. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

[r] Pſal. xxii. 27, 28. [s] Prov. xvi. 12. [t] Prov. xx. 28. xxix. 14. [u] 1 Tim. iv. 8.

A ſhorter Morning Prayer for any Day in the Week, when there is not Time, by reaſon of ſome extraordinary Occaſions, for the other.

O Moſt great and glorious God, the Sovereign of the World, upon whom we continually depend; to whom we owe all the Love, the Service, and the Praiſe that we are able to render to all Eternity: We adore thy infinite Mercy, from whence we have received ſo many Bleſſings for the Comfort of this Life; and by which we have a ſure Hope of good Things in the Life to come. Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, which hath not ſuffered us to wander, without Inſtruction, after the fooliſh Deſires of our own Hearts, but haſt clearly ſhewn us where our Happineſs lies. We receive with all Thankfulneſs thoſe holy Words which teach us the Bleſſedneſs of Poverty and Contentedneſs of Spirit; of Meekneſs and Humility of Mind; of Hungering and Thirſting after Righteouſneſs; of Mercifulneſs and Purity of Heart; of Peaceableneſs, and patient Suffering for doing the Will of our Lord Chriſt.

O that we may have Grace to labour always to be of the Number of thoſe bleſſed Souls that never ſet their Hearts on any Thing ſo much as theſe heavenly Virtues! O that we may ever think and feel ourſelves happy in the Comfort of thoſe great and precious Promiſes of being made the Children of the Higheſt, the Heirs

Heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven, and at laſt of ſeeing thee our God. It ſuffices, O Lord, that we have theſe glorious Hopes hereafter; which make us believe thou wilt not let us want what is neceſſary for us, whilſt we continue here. We recommend ourſelves, with an humble Confidence, to thy watchful Providence this Day, beſeeching thee to guide and aſſiſt us, that in all our Deſires, Words, and Actions, we may keep ourſelves innocent and undefiled before thee, and be diſpoſed to do all Good, as we have Opportunity.

And we heartily deſire that all Mankind may be filled with the ſame Devotion to thee; and eſpecially, that all Chriſtian People may glorify thy Name, and be joyful in thee. And the greater any are in Dignity and Power, raiſe their Spirits to the greater Pitch of Wiſdom, Mercy, and Piety, that they may right thoſe that ſuffer Wrong, and defend thoſe that have no Helper; and provide for the Eaſe and Comfort of all miſerable Creatures to the utmoſt of their Power. In this ardent Charity we commit both Souls and Bodies to thee, beſeeching thee to increaſe our Love to thee, and to all Men, till we be fit to be tranſlated to the Region of Love and Joy, and perfect Satisfaction through Chriſt Jeſus, who hath taught us, when we pray, to ſay,

Our Father, &c.

Another

Another ſhort Prayer for the Morning.

O Bleſſed God, be thou acknowledged, praiſed and loved by us, and all the Children of Men, on whom thou poureſt continually thy Benefits. They are great and many; we know not the Sum, nor underſtand the Value of them. The Angels themſelves admired thy Love to us in Chriſt Jeſus, and are becoming miniſtring Spirits to them who are Heirs of Salvation. We enjoy the continual Fruits of thy watchful Providence, by which we have been kept in Peace and Safety the laſt Night, and are raiſed this Morning in Health and Strength, both of Body and Mind, beholding all Things belonging to us juſt as we left them with thee when we went to ſleep.

Accept, we moſt humbly beſeech thee, of this poor Tribute of Praiſe and Thanks, together with the hearty Oblation of our Souls and Bodies, which we here dedicate again to thy Service. Vouchſafe us the continued Aſſiſtance of the Grace of thy Holy Spirit, to enable us to make good thoſe Vows that are upon us, of *obediently keeping thy holy Will and Commandments, and walking in the ſame all the Days of our Life.* Pardon, good Lord, all our Breaches of this ſacred Covenant. Deal not with us according to our Sins, neither reward us after our Iniquities; but in the Multitude of thy tender Mercies

Mercies pity our Errors and Wanderings, and help us againſt our Infirmities.

Give us Leave this Day to put ourſelves into thy powerful Protection, and to depend on thee for thy merciful Guidance and Aſſiſtance, that we may be more faithful to thee in the Diſcharge of our Duties, and never ſwerve from the Rules of Sobriety, Righteouſneſs, Charity and Godlineſs. So ſhall we return with joyful Hearts to praiſe thee in the Evening, and teach thoſe who ſhall come after us, to continue thy Praiſes in the next Generation. *Amen*, for thy Mercies Sake in Chriſt Jeſus; in whoſe Words we preſent the earneſt Deſires of our Hearts, for ourſelves, and all our Brethren, ſaying,

Our Father, &c.

A ſhort Prayer for the Evening, when there is no Time for the longer.

O God, we thy Creatures, who have taſted liberally of thy Bounty many Ways, and been bleſſed in our ſeveral Employments, and mercifully preſerved from ſeveral Dangers this Day, are here met to join together in moſt hearty Thankſgivings to thy divine Majeſty, which with one accord we offer up unto thee. It is the greateſt happineſs of all, we acknowledge, that we have any Senſe of thee in our Minds;

Minds; any Love to thee in our Hearts; any Remembrance of thy Benefits; any holy Diſpoſitions to obey thee, and any Hopes that thou wilt pardon our Sins, and make us Partakers of eternal Life.

All that we deſire of thee, O Lord, is the Continuance and Increaſe of this Happineſs, that we may be poſſeſſed with a ſtronger Senſe of thy Majeſty, thy ſovereign Power, thy unſearchable Wiſdom, Goodneſs and Truth, and be filled with a more ardent Love to thee, and to all Righteouſneſs, and delight to do thy Will in every Thing, and rejoice in hope of thy immortal Glory. As for all the Things of this Life, in grateful Remembrance of thy many paſt Mercies, we intirely truſt thee for the Time to come; referring ourſelves to thy Wiſdom, and reſolving to be content with that Portion which thy good Providence is pleaſed to aſſign us. Help us but to be ſtedfaſt and immoveable in the Work of our Lord, to bring forth all the Fruits of the Spirit, *Love, Joy, Peace, Long-ſuffering, Gentleneſs, Goodneſs, Faith, Meekneſs and Temperance*, and we ſhall think ourſelves rich enough, and well provided for in every State and Condition of Life.

In theſe holy Thoughts and Deſires, we commend ourſelves to thy gracious Protection this Night, hoping to find them freſh and lively in our Souls when we awake in the Morning; and deſiring, with all the Happineſs of the reſt of the World, that we may know thee, and acknowledge

knowledge thee; and be guided unto, and walk in the Way that leads to everlaſting Life, thro' Chriſt Jeſus our bleſſed Redeemer; in whoſe powerful Name, and comprehenſive Words, we continue to pray as he hath taught us, ſaying, *Our Father*, &c.

Another for the Evening.

IN an humble and thankful Senſe, O Lord of Heaven and Earth, of our intire Dependence on thee, and of the Duty we owe thee, and the many Promiſes and Vows wherein we ſtand engaged to thee, we fall down before thee this Evening, and with all Reverence worſhip thy divine Majeſty, giving thee the Glory that is due unto thy Name, and acknowledging thy multiplied Mercies to us, particularly thoſe of this Day, to the Concluſion of which thou haſt now ſafely brought us, with new Reſolutions in our Hearts to continue for ever in thy Faith, and Fear, and Love, and Obedience.

It is but juſt and reaſonable, and we feel likewiſe, by daily Experience, that it is our Happineſs to keep thy Commandments, and to maintain chearful Thoughts of thee, and an hearty Friendſhip with thee, by complying in all Things with thy holy Will. O pardon our Folly, moſt gracious God, in forſaking at any Time that perfect Rule, to follow our own unruly Deſires. Pardon us, we beſeech thee,

for

for we know not how to pardon ourſelves for ſuch Ingratitude to thee, and Cruelty to ourſelves. It is the Grief of our Hearts, that we have in the leaſt offended thee; and our moſt earneſt, unfeigned Deſire, to be preſerved hereafter in an exact Conformity to our Rule in every Thing. Yea, we would delight to do thy Will, O God, and take ſuch a Pleaſure in all the Acts of Righteouſneſs, Mercy, Meekneſs, and Gentleneſs to our Neighbours; and in praiſing and acknowleding thee, the God of all Grace, and living in an humble Senſe of thy Bounty and our own Undeſervings, and in a temperate and thankful Uſe of all thy Bleſſings, that we may have the continual Feaſt of a good Conſcience, and the conſtant Comfort and Satisfaction of having thee always for our Friend, and our gracious Father in Chriſt Jeſus.

O Thou! who art the Inſpirer of ſuch holy Counſels, Deſires, and Purpoſes, keep them for ever in our Hearts; encourage, ſtrengthen, and increaſe them, that after the Refreſhment of a quiet Sleep this Night, we may feel them lively and powerful in the Morning, and with renewed Joy we may ſtill devote ourſelves to thy faithful ſervice. O that our Friends, and all thy People in every Place, may partake of the ſame Mercies we deſire for ourſelves; and howſoever we are ſevered one from another in this World, grant us an happy Meeting at the Day of our Lord; in whoſe Words we pray thee to hear us. *Our Father*, &c.

PRAYERS

PRAYERS

FOR

PARTICULAR PERSONS.

A Prayer for the Morning, to be ſaid by any Perſon alone.

O Moſt holy, bleſſed, and glorious Majeſty of Heaven and Earth, who art before all Things, becauſe they all receive their Being from thee; and who art of thyſelf infinite in all Perfections! before thee, who art ſo great and incomprehenſible, I moſt humbly proſtrate myſelf this Morning, rejoicing in this happy Liberty which thou vouchſafeſt me of retiring my Thoughts a little from this World, to look up unto thee, the Father of my Being.

I adore and praiſe thy eternal Power, Wiſdom, and Goodneſs. I heartily acknowledge the Duty which I owe thee, both as I am thy Creature, and as I am a Chriſtian. I bewail all my Neglects of it, my Backwardneſs unto it, or Coldneſs in it. I intreat thy gracious Pardon; and engage myſelf, for the Time to come, more heartily and firmly to thy Obedience, beſeeching the Grace of thy Holy Spirit,

to enable me to perform all thoſe Engagements which are upon me. And bleſſed be thy Fatherly Goodneſs, which hath ſo often prevented me with that Grace. I owe to it all the good Thoughts and Inclinations that are in my Heart; all thoſe Motions that I feel in my Soul towards thee, as my chiefeſt Good, with all the Effects and Fruits of them in my Life and Actions, which encourage me to hope in thee for the conſtant Help of it, to further me in Well-doing unto the End.

O thou, who haſt ſent thy Son from Heaven to dwell among us, who haſt not ſpared his Life, but given him up for us all; who haſt raiſed him from the Dead, and made him Heir of all Things; who haſt given him all Power in Heaven and Earth, that he may bleſs us, and do us good; deny not the Deſires of a Soul that offers up itſelf entirely in ſincere Affection to thy Service. But aſſiſt me ſo mightily from above, that I may make thee my conſtant Acknowledgments likewiſe for the ſenſible Fruits of his Life, Death, Reſurrection, and Exaltation produced in my Heart, growing more and more in all Wiſdom, Righteouſneſs, Purity, Humility, Goodneſs, and every other divine Virtue. For which End preſerve me always in ſuch a ſerious Temper of Mind, that the Senſe of my Duty to thee may make me always ready, and forward to it, and the Senſe of my Weakneſs may make me watchful and diligent; and the Senſe

of my former Negligence excite me to be fervent in Spirit; and the Goodneſs of thy Commands may render me more fruitful and abundant in the Work of the Lord; and the great Danger I have eſcaped, and the Bleſſedneſs before me, may provoke me to perſevere moſt patiently in all Well-doing, with Joy and Thankfulneſs, ſo that I may be like to Chriſt Jeſus, my gracious Lord and Maſter, and do him Honour here in this World, and walk worthy of the Privileges he hath beſtowed on me, and make grateful Returns for all the vaſt Receipts I have had from thy moſt bounteous Mercy. O that all my Acknowledgments and pious Affections may be turned into Actions of Holineſs and Piety, and all my Actions may be ſpirited with Zeal, and all my Zeal be regulated with Prudence, and my Prudence be void of all Guile, and joined with perfect Integrity of Heart, that adorning thy moſt holy Faith and Profeſſion, by a religious, upright, charitable, and diſcreet Converſation whilſt I am here, I may receive Approbation and Praiſe at the Day of the Lord Jeſus, and be numbered among thy Saints in Glory everlaſting.

This, O Lord, is the Sum of all my Deſires. Diſpoſe me, by every Thing that befals me for eternal Life, and it ſufficeth. I wholly leave my Concerns in this Life to the Wiſdom of thy Goodneſs, that thou mayeſt order what thou judgeſt to be fitteſt for me. I truſt thee with myſelf, and all I have, hoping

thou wilt preſerve me from all Things hurtful, and lead me to all Things profitable for my Salvation.

The like I wiſh to all the World, that Unbelievers may be tranſlated out of the Kingdom of Darkneſs into the Kingdom of thy dear Son, and they who are called by the Name of Chriſt may depart from all Iniquity. Inſpire all Kings and Princes of the Earth, eſpecially our Sovereign, with great Wiſdom and Charity, and make them like to thee, the Lord of all, who art good unto all, and pleaſed in Mercy. Endue all our Paſtors and Guides with true Knowledge, Piety and Zeal; and give me and all Chriſtian People Grace to receive their Inſtructions with a meek, humble and obedient Heart.

Thou knoweſt the Sorrows, Troubles, and Perplexities of all afflicted Perſons, for whom I implore thy compaſſionate Relief. Support them with a lively Faith and Hope in thy precious Promiſes; diſpoſe them thereby to a more ſtrict obſervance of thy holy Commands, and convert their preſent Sufferings into endleſs Joys, when they have brought forth the peaceable Fruit of Righteouſneſs. And whilſt thou art pleaſed to continue to me that Eaſe, Plenty and Proſperity which I enjoy, fill me with ſuch a Senſe of thy undeſerved Goodneſs, that I may be the more ready to do Good to thoſe who are in Miſery; and by a ſober and moderate Uſe of thy Bleſſings, be prepared to endure patient-

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ly whatſoever Change thou ſhalt be pleaſed to order for me, into a worſe Condition.

Preſerve me all this Day in Innocence and in Love to thee, and to all Men. And ſince in all my Ways I acknowledge thee, do thou direct my Paths, and teach me to guide my Affairs with Diſcretion [a]. Thou art my Hope and my Confidence, my Satisfaction and my Peace, my Glory and my Joy; therefore never leave me nor forſake me, but conduct me ſafely by thy Counſel through all the Buſineſſes and Enjoyments, through all the Temptations and Troubles of this Life, to that bleſſed Place where our Lord Jeſus liveth and reigneth with thee, in the Unity of the ſame Spirit, World without End. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

A Prayer for the Evening.

O Lord, the Creator of the World, and the Redeemer of Mankind, who knoweſt all Things, and canſt do what thou pleaſeſt, and wilt do that which is beſt for thy Children, and haſt done us a World of Good already, and promiſed to do more for us, if we be obedient, than we can aſk or think, and haſt given us the greateſt Aſſurance of the Truth of

[a] Prov. iii. 6. Pſal. cxii. 5.

thoſe Promiſes by thy Son Jeſus, who died for us, and whom thou haſt raiſed from the Dead, and given him the Promiſe of the Holy Ghoſt, which he hath poured forth abundantly, to ſhed abroad thy Love in our Hearts. I fall down before thee in the loweſt Manner, to expreſs my Fear and Reverence of thy almighty Power; my Admiration of, and Submiſſion to, thy unſearchable Wiſdom; my hearty Love and thankful Acknowledgment of thy wondrous Goodneſs; my Truſt and Confidence in thy faithful Promiſes; with my Readineſs, and ſincere Purpoſes, to perform all Obedience to thy holy Commands.

There is nothing, O Lord, ſo afflictive to me, as the Remembrance that I have at any Time offended thy Sovereign Authority. I am heartily ſorry for the Breaking of any of thy ſacred, righteous, and good Laws. I abhor the Thoughts of doing ſo again, and proteſt eternal enmity to all that is contrary to thy bleſſed Will, addicting myſelf with moſt hearty Affection to thy true and faithful Service. Pardon me, therefore, moſt gracious and merciful Father, and accept theſe holy Reſolutions which thou haſt inſpired me withal. Strengthen, I beſeech thee, and further them with thy continued Grace, that no ſudden Deſires, vehement Inclinations, ineffectual Purpoſes, nor no partial Performances, may deceive and lead me into a falſe Opinion of myſelf, but that I may bring forth actually, and with a conſtant

Spirit,

Spirit, all the Fruits of Righteouſneſs, which are, by Chriſt Jeſus, to the Praiſe and Glory of thee my God. Poſſeſs me with ſuch a deep and ſtrong Senſe of thy ſupreme Authority over all, of the Obligations I have to thee, and the great Kindneſs thou haſt done me in engaging me to be thy Servant, that Religion may be the very Buſineſs of my Life, and my greateſt Pleaſure may be to pleaſe thee in every Thing, and my higheſt Deſign to attain that bleſſed Immortality which Chriſt Jeſus hath promiſed.

O lift up my Affections more and more to thoſe Things above, where he is, that Heaven may have my Heart, whilſt this World hath my Body, and I may have perfect Contentment of Mind in Well-doing and Patient-ſuffering, and the good Hope I have of being eternally beloved of thee, the Lord of Heaven and Earth, may make me rejoice evermore. Free me from all inordinate Cares for the Things of this life, from all Diſtruſt of thy good Providence, from all Repining at any Thing that befals me, and enable me in every Thing to give Thanks, believing that all Things are ordered by the greateſt Reaſon, and ſhall work together for Good to thoſe that love thee.

I doubt not of thy Fatherly Affection to thoſe that ſtudy, in all Sincerity, to approve themſelves unto thee; and therefore ſtill reſolve to leave myſelf intirely to thy wiſe Counſels, that thou mayeſt diſpoſe me into ſuch a Condition as thou ſeeſt beſt for me in this

World. Remember me but of my Duty, quicken and excite me to it, ſtrengthen me in the Doing of it, ſupport me under all Diſcouragements, adviſe me in all difficult Caſes, and comfort me with a ſtedfaſt Belief of thy holy Word, and I ſhall ever be giving Thanks and Praiſes unto thee, who dealeſt ſo bountifully with me.

Into thy Hands I commend this Night both Soul and Body, which have been mercifully preſerved in ſafety all this Day. I repoſe myſelf in the Belief of thy watchful Providence, and that thou giveſt thy Angels Charge over us, and art about our Beds, and about our Paths, and ſpieſt out all our Thoughts. O continue theſe holy Thoughts and Deſires in me till I fall aſleep, that thou mayeſt have a Soul full of Love to thee in thy Cuſtody, and I may receive the Light of the Morning, if thou prolongeſt my Life, with a new Joy in thee, and thankful Affection to thee.

I moſt heartily deſire likewiſe, O merciful God, the Good of the whole World. Pity the Follies of Mankind, deliver them from their Sins, and from their Miſeries. Hear the Groans of every Part of the Creature that is yet ſubject to the Bondage of Corruption, and bring them all into the glorious Liberty of thy Children. Hear the daily Prayers of the catholic Church; Free her from all foul and dividing Errors: Let the Truth, as it is in Jeſus, prevail, and Peace be in all her Borders. O that all Chriſtian

tian Kings and Governors may follow after Peace, and enſue it. Make thy Miniſters the Meſſengers of Peace, and diſpoſe the Hearts of all Chriſtians to keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace.

Enlighten the Minds of all *Jews*, *Turks*, and Infidels, with the Knowledge of thy Truth. Give Repentance unto Sinners, and Increaſe of Grace and Strength to all thy faithful Servants. Reduce thoſe that wander out of the Way; raiſe up thoſe who are fallen; confirm and ſettle thoſe that ſtand; and grant them a ſtedfaſt Reſolution to perſevere in Faith, Love and Obedience. Relieve and comfort all thoſe that are in any Diſtreſs. Make the Earth to bring forth her Increaſe in due Seaſon; and let all honeſt and induſtrious People be ſucceſsful and bleſſed in their Labours.

Remember all thoſe to whom I am indebted for my Birth, Education, Inſtruction or Promotion: Thou, who art rich in Mercy, reward and recompenſe their Care and Love. Grant Forgiveneſs and Charity to all my Enemies; continue Good-will among all my kind Neighbours; ſupport the Sick in Faith and Patience; aſſiſt thoſe who are dying and leaving this World; fit them for a better Place; receive the Souls which thou haſt redeemed with thy Son's moſt precious Blood, and ſanctified by the Holy Ghoſt; and give us all a glorious Reſurrection, and eternal Life. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

A ſhort

A short Prayer to be used by any one alone in the Morning.

I Adore thee, O Lord, the Possessor of Heaven and Earth, who surpassest all our Thoughts, and doest us Good beyond all our Desires. There is all Reason that I should acknowledge thee continually; that I should worship thee, and praise, and love, and obey thee, whilst I have my Being. I cannot but witness against myself, whensoever I neglect thee; much more when I oppose thy most high Authority, by doing contrary to thy Laws. For thy Almighty Goodness gave me my Being, and by that alone have I been maintained and liberally provided for; yea, it hath borne with me very patiently in my Rebellion, and used extraordinary Means to make us Friends; and ceases not its Intreaties, after many unkind Denials, but continues to importune me, till my Heart consent to yield itself intirely to thee.

I cannot withhold myself, O Lord, from thee, when I consider what thou art, and what thou hast been to me; such a tender, gracious and compassionate Father, as my greatest Affections cannot find Words to express. I must again surrender Soul and Body into thy Hands, which have been so long, so lovingly stretched out towards me; resolving to stay with thee, and never to depart away from thee.

For

For the more I know of thee, the more I find that I muſt needs love thee; and the more I love thee, the more I deſire to love thee, and to reſemble thee, and to be beloved of thee. O that I may feel the Power of thy Love ſo great in my Heart, that it may govern the reſt of my Paſſions and Affections; and nothing in the World may tempt me to diſpleaſe thee, but every Thing provoke me to love thee: *For whom is there in Heaven that I can deſire but thee, or on Earth beſides thee, who art the bleſſed and only Potentate, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords; who only haſt Immortality?* and deſigneſt by thy Son Jeſus to raiſe us ſinful Duſt and Aſhes to a Kingdom, Glory, Honour, and Immortality in the Heavens.

I moſt earneſtly beſeech thee, that this Senſe of thee may accompany me whereſoever I go, and in whatſoever I do this Day. That approving myſelf to thee in ſuch a godly, ſober, righteous, charitable, and prudent Behaviour, as may adorn the Goſpel of my Lord and Maſter Chriſt Jeſus, I may have a greater Aſſurance of thy good Will towards me, and an undoubted Hope of thy Mercy in him to eternal Life. In whoſe moſt bleſſed Name and Words I humbly recommend myſelf, my Friends and all thy Servants, to thy infinite Charity, ſaying, as he hath taught us,

Our Father, &c.

Another.

Another for the Evening.

BLeſſing, Glory, Honour, and Praiſe be again returned to thee, O Father of Mercy, from a moſt thankful Heart, which offers up itſelf alſo in holy Devotion to thee, who art my ſovereign Lord, my moſt loving Saviour, my Deliverer and Benefactor, the Fountain of all the good Things I enjoy at preſent, and the Hope of my Soul for ever and ever. Bleſſed be thy renewed Kindneſs to me this Day paſt; both to myſelf and my Relations, to my Soul and my Body, in my Tranſactions with Men, and in the Liberty thou alloweſt me of Addreſſes to thyſelf. Pardon, good Lord, whatſoever hath eſcaped me in Thought, Word, or Deed, contrary to my Duty; and accept of thoſe ſincere Intentions, and unfeigned Purpoſes which were, and I hope ſhall always be in my Heart, to ſtudy to approve myſelf to thee in all Well-doing.

It is but juſt and reaſonable that I ſhould follow thy Will, and not my own; and in a grateful Senſe of what I have received from thee, I ought to be moved to employ all the Powers of my Soul and Body to thee. But ſuch is the Goodneſs of thy Will, that it is for my Eaſe and Pleaſure, and greateſt Happineſs, to be abſolutely led and governed by it. I am ſenſible, O Lord, how much I am indebted to thee for teaching me by Chriſt Jeſus, and alſo

ſtrongly

ſtrongly obliging me to exerciſe myſelf to all Godlineſs, Purity, Righteouſneſs, Humility, Goodneſs, and Truth. And accordingly I thank thee above all Things, for his holy Inſtructions and Example; for the Hope thou haſt given us by his blood, that thou wilt be ſo merciful to our Sins, as not to deny us the Power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to follow him, and obey his Commands; and for that exceeding great and precious Promiſe which he hath given us of immortal Life, to encourage us to follow him willingly and chearfully, even to the Death.

O that I may ſee a lively and ſtedfaſt Faith in his Word, continually working with great Power in my Heart, exciting me to an unwearied Diligence, and Zeal, and Love, and patient Continuance in my Duty towards thee, and towards all Men, that ſo my Hope in thee may grow and increaſe, and I may joyfully expect that Hour which ſhall tranſlate me hence to the eternal Happineſs of the other World. And during my Stay here, I commend myſelf to thy good Providence, which hath hitherto been ſo tender of me. I truſt thee wholly with myſelf, and all belonging to me, and am willing in every Thing to be diſpoſed of as thou ſeeſt good. This Night I flee unto thy Almighty Protection, hoping thou wilt keep me ſafely; and whether I awake in this or the other Life, I ſhall ſtill be praiſing thee, whoſe Mercy endureth for ever. *Amen.* For Chriſt Jeſus

his

his Sake, by whom thou haſt encouraged me to hope in thee, and taught me to call thee Father, ſaying,

Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name; Thy Kingdom come: Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven: Give us this Day our daily Bread: And forgive us our Treſpaſſes, as we forgive them that Treſpaſs againſt us: And lead us not into Temptation, but deliver us from Evil, &c.

PRIVATE

PRIVATE PRAYERS

IN THE

CHURCH.

That Time which is wont to be ſpent in the Church, in talking or looking about, before Divine Service begins, may be better employed in private Prayer, to diſpoſe us to join with greater Serioufneſs in the Public. And indeed, our Buſineſs being there with God alone, and that Place being ſeparated for his Service only, the Cuſtom which now univerſally prevails, of entertaining Diſcourſe one with another, is very indecent (to ſay no worſe) and ought to be reformed. We have other Times, and Places enough, to confer with our Neighbours, and therefore have no Temptation to pervert the Uſe of this; which is ſet apart for devout Intercourſe with God, and none elſe, by ſpeaking to him in Prayer and Praiſes, and hearing him ſpeak to us in his holy Word. It is fit to ſilence all other Speech; and therefore here follow ſome Helps for that Purpoſe; which, I hope, all good Chriſtians will endeavour to uſe or imitate, and not deſpiſe this loving Admonition.

A ſhort

A ſhort Prayer before Divine Service begins.

BEhold, O Lord of Heaven and Earth! a Soul proſtrate before thee, deſiring to be filled with ſuch an awful Senſe of thy Divine Majeſty, that no other Thing may interpoſe itſelf while I am in thy Preſence. Fix my inconſtant Thoughts in a ſtedfaſt Attention to thy moſt holy Word. Inſpire me with devout Affections, when I ſet forth thy Praiſe, and render Thanks for all thy Benefits: And excite in me ſuch fervent Deſires for all thoſe Things which I aſk of thee, that I may feel myſelf better diſpoſed by theſe Addreſſes to thee, to every Chriſtian Duty the reſt of this Day; through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord and Saviour.

Another.

IN an humble and thankful Senſe of thine infinite Goodneſs, which honoureth us ſo much as to ſpeak to us, and giveth us Leave to ſpeak to thee; I bow down myſelf before thee, O moſt high and holy Lord, the Creator of all the World, deſiring my Mind may be poſſeſſed with ſuch great Thoughts of thee, whom the Heaven of Heavens cannot contain, and who openeſt thy Hand and filleſt all Things with Good, that I may moſt reverently worſhip thee, and

and affectionately acknowledge thy Bounty, and ſet my Heart open to receive thy holy Word, that my Mouth may praiſe thee with joyful Lips. Silence all other Thoughts and Deſires in me, while I am here in thy Preſence; and lift up my Heart ſo towards Heaven, that I may feel it united to that glorious Company above, who perpetually praiſe thee, and rejoice in thee, and do thy Commandments, hearkening to the Voice of thy Word; which I humbly beg in the Name of Chriſt Jeſus, which is ever dear unto me; and by whom thou haſt promiſed to hear us. *Amen.*

Or thoſe Words of the Prophet David, *(which you read,* Pſal. v. 7. xvii. 1. cxviii. 28. cxix. 47, 48, *&c.) may be a little altered in this Manner.*

IN the Multitude of thy Mercies I come into thy Houſe; and in thy Fear will I worſhip toward thy holy Place. Attend unto my cry, O Lord, and give ear unto my Prayer, that goeth not out of feigned Lips. Thou art my God, and I will praiſe thee; thou art my God, and I will exalt thee; and I will delight myſelf in thy Commandments, which I have loved. My Hands alſo will I lift up to thy Commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate on thy Statutes. Let thy tender Mercies come alſo unto me, O Lord; even thy Salvation, according to thy Word. Look upon me, and

and be merciful unto me, as thou uſeſt to do to thoſe that love thy Name. Order my Steps in thy Word, and let not any Iniquity have Dominion over me. *Amen.*

A longer Prayer in the Church, when there is Time for it, before the Beginning of Divine Service.

I Caſt down myſelf, O Lord, in an holy Fear and humble Adoration of thine incomprehenſible Majeſty, who filleſt Heaven and Earth; but delighteſt to make thyſelf more peculiarly preſent to thoſe that acknowledge and praiſe thee, and are deſirous to be filled with a conſtant Senſe of thee, and intire Love to thee. Bleſſed be thy infinite Goodneſs, which hath encouraged ſuch Wretches as I am, by the Declaration of thy good Will to us in Chriſt Jeſus, by thy moſt gracious Invitations and precious Promiſes, and by the long Experience I have had of thy Kindneſs, to approach unto thee, O Lord moſt High.

I accept moſt thankfully of this *Freedom* and Liberty *of Acceſs with Confidence by the Faith of Jeſus*; and am here to join with the reſt of thy Servants, in extolling and magnifying thy eternal Power, Wiſdom, and Goodneſs; in giving Thanks to thee for thy innumerable Bleſſings; in hearing thy moſt holy Word; and making our humble Supplications for the Continuance

tinuance of thy undeſerved Grace and Favour towards us. Compoſe mine, and every one of our Thoughts, to the moſt ſilent Admiration of thee; ſtrike our Spirits with a reverend Apprehenſion of the ſurpaſſing Greatneſs and Glory of thy Majeſty: raiſe our Affections to the higheſt Pitch of Love and Gratitude to thee; bow our Wills to the moſt chearful Submiſſion to all thy holy Commands, and touch us with an unſpeakable Joy, when we read and hear thy exceeding great and precious Promiſes.

Vouchſafe, moſt loving Father, the Power of thy Holy Spirit to attend upon me, to draw my Mind from all other Things, and to give me ſuch a lively Taſte of the Pleaſures of thy Houſe, as may make me ever delight to attend upon thee here, and walk with thee in every other Place with a perfect Heart: That ſo my own *Heart not condemning me, I may have more and more Confidence towards thee, that whatſoever I aſk I ſhall receive of thee, becauſe I keep thy Commandments, and do thoſe Things which are pleaſing in thy Sight* [a]. *Truly my Soul waiteth upon thee; from thee cometh my Salvation. Hear my Cry, O God, and attend unto my Prayer* [b], for the Honour of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and the Love thou beareſt to him; who hath bid us aſk, and we ſhall receive; ſeek, and we ſhall find; knock, and it ſhall be opened unto us. Let it be to thy Servant, I moſt ardently beſeech thee, according to his Word. *Amen.*

[a] 1 John iii. 22, 23. [b] Pſal. lxii. 1. lxi. 1.

Another

Another longer.

O Lord of Heaven and Earth, who art infinite and incomprehenſible in thy Being, eternal in thy Duration, and unchangeable in thy Nature; who canſt do what thou wilt, and delighteſt in doing us good. By thy Power, I and all Creatures were made; by thy Wiſdom we are governed; by thy Goodneſs and Bounty we are provided for; under thy Sovereign Dominion we live; and unto thy Majeſty we owe all Reverence, Service, and faithful Obedience. I adore and humbly worſhip thee, I acknowledge myſelf bound by innumerable Ties to fear thee, to love thee, to praiſe thee, and to ſerve thee with all my Heart, and Soul, and Strength. Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, that I have any Hope thou wilt accept of ſuch a worthleſs Thing as my Love. Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs! I admire at the Riches of thy Grace, that thou doſt not reject all the Service that I can tender thee: Nay, it is to be aſcribed to thee alone, that I am alive to worſhip thee, and have the Doors of thy Houſe ſtand open to me; and that I have any Heart to enter into it, to offer up ſpiritual Sacrifices by Chriſt Jeſus.

O God, I offer thee here my whole Self, which is all due to thee, becauſe I received it all from thee; beſeeching thee moſt earneſtly to make me feel that I am not mine own any longer, but thine; by taking off my Thoughts and

Affections

Affections from all other Things at this preſent Time, and filling me with ſuch a reverent Apprehenſion of thee, ſuch hearty Devotion to thee, and heavenly Joy in thee, that I may every Day offer up myſelf to thee more holy and more pure, more meek and merciful, more humble and thankful, more chearfully diſpoſed to every good Work, and better prepared to bear a Part in the Praiſes and Services of the glorious Company above.

Thou knoweſt the Weakneſs of our Nature, how ſoon our Thoughts are tired, and apt to ſtart aſide when we direct them towards Heaven. Vouchſafe me therefore the Aſſiſtance of thy Holy Spirit, to compoſe my Mind to the moſt ſerious, the moſt earneſt, the moſt devout and chearful Attention in all Parts of thy Divine Service. That I may have the livelieſt Senſe of thy glorious Perfections when I praiſe thee; and the moſt delightful Remembrance of thy Mercies when I give thee Thanks; and the moſt thirſty Deſires to be conformed to thy Will, and to feel more and more the Influences of thy Grace, when I hear thy holy Word, and preſent my Prayers and Supplications before thee.

Accept, O bleſſed God, of this good Will and ſincere Affection that I have to thy Service, though performed with broken and diſtracted Thoughts, and with too great Liſtleſſneſs and Dulneſs of Spirit; and help me continually to outgrow this Weakneſs, and to preſent thee with

with an Heart more quiet, calm, and fit to receive thee; more perfect and intire in ardent Love to thee, and more ſettled and fixed in thee as it's chiefeſt Joy and Happineſs; that ſo all the reſt of the Actions of my Life may be a more conſtant and even Performance of my Duty, according to the Command and Example of my bleſſed Lord and Maſter, Chriſt Jeſus, in whoſe Name it is that I am bold to approach into thy Preſence, believing the Power and Authority thou haſt given him over all, to bleſs us, and to do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we aſk or think. By him be Glory unto thee, O Father Almighty, in the Church throughout all Ages, World without End. *Amen.*

At the Concluſion of Divine Service, after theſe Words, The Grace of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, *&c. ſay* Amen, *with the heartieſt and moſt earneſt Affection; and add ſome ſuch Words as theſe:*

BLeſſed be thy Name, O God, for the good Hope which thy infinite Charity hath given us, by thy great Grace in Chriſt Jeſus, and the plentiful Communication of the Holy Ghoſt. O let thy Mercy be upon me according as I hope in thee. Preſerve me always in thy Love, through that abundant Grace in thy Son Chriſt, and let the powerful Preſence of thy Holy Spirit work in me mightily this Day and ever.

Or

Or after The Peace of God which paſſeth all Underſtanding, *&c. you may ſay as the Apoſtle St.* Paul (2 *Theſſ.* iii. 16.) and the *Pſalmiſt* cxv. 12, 13, 18.

NOW the Lord of Peace himſelf give me Peace always, by all Means. The Lord be with us all. The Lord hath been mindful of us, he will bleſs us. He will bleſs them that fear him, both ſmall and great. And we will bleſs the Lord from this Time forth, and for evermore. Amen.

A ſhort Prayer on the Lord's Day, or any other, to be uſed at Home before Morning-Service.

O Lord, the Almighty Creator of the World, and the merciful Saviour of Mankind, who art above our all Thoughts, and excelleſt the Praiſes of the higheſt Angels: *Thou art greatly to be feared in the Aſſembly of thy Saints, and to be had in Reverence of all thoſe that are about thee.* I moſt humbly deſire Leave to join myſelf with all thoſe holy ones, to worſhip thy moſt glorious Majeſty, to expreſs the due Senſe I have of all thy Benefits (by paying thee my moſt thankful Acknowledgments for them) to make thee the beſt Oblation I am able, and devote myſelf intirely to thy Obedience.

Since

Since thou haſt graciouſly inclined me to go into thy Houſe, and there to ſet forth thy Praiſe, to declare thy loving Kindneſs, to reſign myſelf to thy Will, to recommend myſelf to thy Wiſdom, to ſubmit to thy Government, to approve the Juſtice and Goodneſs of all thy Laws, to profeſs that I am thy Servant, to renounce all thy Enemies, and to teſtify my continued Purpoſe, to follow thee againſt all the Temptations of the World, the Fleſh, and the Devil; be pleaſed, good Lord, to pardon all my former Failings, and at this preſent to accept my holy Intentions, and to inſpire me from Above, that I may chearfully perform all theſe Acts of Devotion to thy Divine Majeſty.

And vouchſafe more fully to inform me in my Duty, to correct and amend what is amiſs in me, to encourage and ſtrengthen my good Reſolutions, and to aſſiſt me in all well-doing. Fill me with a great Love to thee, and to my bleſſed Saviour; to thy holy Word, and to all holy Duties; to Chriſtian People every where, and to all Mankind. Perfect me in Wiſdom, in Holineſs, and in Godlineſs. By all thy Inſtructions, by all thy Mercies, by all thy Chaſtiſements, and by all my Prayers, Praiſes, and Thankſgivings to thee, the Father of Mercies; make me ſuch as thou canſt Love and Delight in, and reward me at the great Day of the Lord Jeſus. *Amen.*

A ſhort

A ſhort Prayer at Home, after we are come from Church, before Dinner.

I Adore thee again, O Lord of Life and Glory; I acknowledge my Dependence on thee. I thank thee for thy Mercies, which thou never ceaſeſt to heap upon me. Accept, I beſeech thee, of that Dedication I have made of Soul and Body, with Praiſes and Thankſgivings unto thee in the public Congregations. Be merciful to all my Sins, and endue me with the Grace of thy Holy Spirit, to enable me to preſent myſelf, when I appear again before thee, a more holy and devout Sacrifice unto thee; ſtedfaſtly reſolved, and chearfully diſpoſed in every Thing to be ordered by thy Will.

For which End, be pleaſed to ſettle and root in my Heart a ſtronger Belief of thy holy Goſpel, and to fix my Thoughts and Affections upon that unſeen Happineſs and Bliſs where our Saviour is, that nothing here below may either allure or affright me from my Duty, nor ever make me remiſs or negligent in it; but I may be zealous of good Works, fervent in Spirit, ſerving my Lord, from whom I expect the Reward of an immortal Inheritance.

Preſerve in me always a religious Senſe of thee; and make me now ſo thankful and ſober a Partaker of the Refreſhments of my Body, that they may not damp the Devotion of my

Soul; but I may rather return to worſhip thee with greater Chearfulneſs and Gladneſs of Heart, after thou haſt added the good Things of this World to thoſe of the other, according to thy abundant Love in Chriſt Jeſus. *Amen.*

A Prayer in private before the Evening-Service.

O God, who art *rich in Mercy to all that call upon thee*, and haſt bid us *pray without ceaſing, and rejoice evermore*[a]: in Obedience to thy Command, and encouraged by the Goodneſs of thy Nature, thy gracious Invitations, thy moſt precious Promiſes, and the long Experience that I and others have had of thy Bounty; I am bold again to approach into thy Preſence; to renew my Requeſts unto thee, to bleſs thy holy Name, to make Profeſſion of my Love to thee, and Readineſs in all Things to obey thee. Quicken my Thoughts and Affections, O Lord, to a free and joyful Attendance on thee in all holy Duties; that no Dulneſs nor Wearineſs may ſeize upon my Spirits; but ſuch a fervent Love to thee may poſſeſs my Heart, as may render all the Employments of Religion my Delight, and the doing thy Will, both now and always, my greateſt Pleaſure.

[a] 1 Theſſ. v. 16, 17.

And

And paſs by, I moſt humbly beſeech thee, all my unwilling Indiſpoſitions. Accept of ſuch Service as I am able to render thee. And diſpoſe me, by all my Addreſſes to thee, to be more circumſpect and watchful, more diligent and induſtrious, more forward and zealous in the Performance of every Part of my Duty; that being led by thy Counſel, governed by thy Spirit, and preſerved by thy gracious Providence, I may at laſt be admitted into the Company of the Bleſſed; there to perfect my Praiſes and Acknowledgments, and to receive the Reward of patient Continuance in Well-doing, through Chriſt Jeſus; whoſe *Grace be with my Spirit.* Amen.

Another after the Evening Service is done, as ſoon as there is Opportunity to retire alone.

I Acknowledge thy manifold Bleſſings, O Lord, which are renewed upon me every Moment. I owe my Life continually to thee, with all the Comforts of it. If I had no more to thank thee for but the Mercies of this Day, they are ſo many, and ſo great, that I could never thank thee enough for them. Thou takeſt Care of my Body and of my Soul. Thou feedeſt me at thy Houſe, and at my own. Thou letteſt me taſte the Bread of Life which came down from Heaven, beſides the many

Supports and Refreſhments which thou affordeſt for this natural Life. Several of thy Creatures loſe their Lives to preſerve mine; and thy dear Son hath not thought it too much to lay down his precious Life for my Sake. Thou ſpeakeſt to me, and giveſt me Leave to ſpeak to thee. Thou inſtructeſt me in my Duty, and haſt made thoſe Things my Duty which are really my Happineſs. Thou engageſt me to do myſelf Good here, by promiſing a greater Good hereafter.

I praiſe thee, I thank thee, and will be ever ſpeaking Good of thee. And it is a new Favour, that I may thus praiſe and bleſs thee, both in the Aſſemblies of thy People, and in my own Retirements. O give me an Heart to delight in it, and in all other Duties of a Chriſtian Life, that obeying thy holy Goſpel in all Things, and being never weary in Well-doing, I may find thy unwearied Goodneſs extending itſelf to immortal Life and Bliſs, thro' Chriſt Jeſus.

O bleſſed Jeſus! that thy holy Laws may be more deeply engraven on my Heart! O that every Truth I have learnt this Day may be ſo faithfully preſerved and kept in Mind, as to become the Rule of my Life, or the Ground of my Hope, and a powerful Motive to univerſal and uniform Obedience to the End of my Days! O that the Remainder of my Days may be the better for this Day; and the holy Reſt we obſerve here an Earth, may be a

Beginning

Beginning of the eternal Reſt which we wait for at thy ſecond Coming! *Amen, Come Lord Jeſus!*

A Prayer upon any Feſtival, in Remembrance of our Bleſſed Lord and Saviour, to be added to the foregoing Devotion.

O Moſt glorious God, the Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, *the Father of Lights, from whom cometh every good, and every perfect Gift; with whom there is no Variableneſs, nor Shadow of Change*[d]. Thou always waſt and ever wilt be happy without us, or any of the Praiſes that we or any other Creatures are able to render unto thee. But it is our Duty, our Perfection, and high Privilege, conſtantly to acknowledge thee with Joy and Exaltation of Spirit, in Remembrance of thy infinite Bounty to us and to all the World.

Every Day tells us how good thou art, and every one of thy Creatures calls upon us to magnify thee, and love thee, and ſerve thee, who haſt made ſo many of them to ſerve us: But this Day give us Occaſion to remember thy more ſpecial and extraordinary Kindneſs to us the Children of Men, which calls for our higheſt and moſt exalted Praiſes, to be joined with thoſe of the bleſſed Company above, who are never weary of giving Honour, Glory,

[d] James i. 15.

Bleſſing, and Thankſgiving to thee, not only in their own Behalf, but even for thy Goodneſs to us thy unworthy Creatures.

O how great was that Love, which an Angel came to give Notice of, and which a Multitude of an Heavenly Hoſt celebrated with Songs of Praiſe, when thou ſenteſt thy dear Son in the Likeneſs of ſinful Fleſh, and in the Form of a Servant, to miniſter to our Neceſſities, to relieve our Miſery, and to be the Way to everlaſting Life! O the Riches of thy Grace, that after Mankind had forfeited all the Rights of thy Creatures, and had contemned and diſpitefully uſed many of thy Meſſengers, thou wouldeſt in much Mercy create us again unto good Works, and for that End appear thyſelf moſt gloriouſly among us, in the Perſon of Jeſus Chriſt?

I thank thee, O Lord, that thou haſt aſſumed our Nature unto ſuch a Nearneſs to thee, as we are not able to underſtand. I thank thee for the glad Tidings which Jeſus hath brought us from Heaven, that thou wilt be reconciled unto us, and admit us again into thy Favour; and that he hath fulfilled all Righteouſneſs, and ſhewn us in our Likeneſs what thou art, and what thou wouldeſt have us to be. I thank thee for the Redemption which he hath wrought for us by his Blood. And I rejoice in the Victory which he hath got over Hell and the Grave, by his Reſurrection from the Dead; and in his glorious Triumph,

Triumph, when he aſcended up on High, and led Captivity captive; and in his royal Power, wherewith he was inveſted when he ſat down at the right Hand of the Majeſty on High; and in thoſe Gifts which he received for Men, even for the Rebellious alſo, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

Bleſſed be the eternal Goodneſs, which hath made him a moſt merciful and compaſſionate High Prieſt, and given us ſo great Aſſurance that he is become the Author of eternal Salvation unto all them that obey him.

Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs which hath ſent the Holy Ghoſt, and continued to us a Succeſſion of Paſtors and Teachers to be the Guides of our Souls, and to miniſter to us thoſe Pledges of thy Love. which our Saviour hath left us in the Communion of his Body and Blood.

O God, that my Heart could aſcend up to Heaven in theſe devout Meditations, and in ardent Love to thee, who haſt loved us in ſuch a marvellous Manner! O that it might never come down again to this World but with Deſires left in it aſpiring towards Heaven! Touch my Soul ſo powerfully with a Senſe of theſe Things, that with an hearty and zealous Affection it may ever look towards thee, and towards my dear Lord and Saviour Chriſt Jeſus. O fix mine Eyes on him as he was here on Earth, that I may learn of him his humble and meek Obedience to thy Commands; and as he is now in Heaven, that I may truſt him

for the Performance of his precious Promiſes, and patiently wait till he carry me to that glorious Place where he is enthroned.

Since he appeared among us to deſtroy the Works of the Devil, and died to redeem us from all Sin, and roſe again that he may bleſs us, in turning every one of us from our Iniquities, and is made Lord of all, that he may govern us by his Laws, and reward and puniſh us according to our Works; preſerve in my Mind, I beſeech thee, a conſtant and lively Senſe of this great End of his whole Undertaking for us, that he may ſee the Fruit of the Travail of his Soul in me, and my whole Life may be a ſerious Study and Endeavour to imitate him, by purifying myſelf as he is pure.

O that thy Fear and Love, and an holy Joy in thee, may preſerve me this Day from abuſing any of the good Things which thou alloweſt me for the Refreſhment of my Body. Give me ſuch a Flavour and Reliſh of thy divine Truths revealed to us in the Goſpel, that I may not glut myſelf with any fleſhly Enjoyments, as if I knew no Pleaſure more excellent: But raiſe up my Mind by them to better Delights; that I may enjoy them with Thankſgiving to thee, with Bowels of Mercy to thoſe who are in Need, with a Taſte of ſpiritual and heavenly Joys, and with Hunger and Thirſt after the Fulneſs and Perfection of thoſe Joys, when our Lord Jeſus ſhall come to ſhew us his Glory, and entertain us with eternal Satisfaction in his incomprehenſible Love. *Amen.*

A

A

PRAYER

ON

GOOD-FRIDAY,

In the MORNING.

O Moſt holy and eternally bleſſed, the God and Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, by whom I am encouraged to come unto thee: And how ſhall I come, O Lord, but in the loweſt Proſtrations of my Soul and Body, with mine Eyes full of Tears, and my Heart full of Grief and Sorrow, becauſe I have been ſo undutiful to thee, whoſe Grace and Mercy hath ſo exceedingly abounded towards us! When I caſt mine Eyes upon my Saviour, and upon myſelf, with the reſt of the Children of Men, I am aſtoniſhed at the wonderful Greatneſs of thy Love, which ſurpaſſes the Thoughts of Men and Angels.

And what were we that thou ſhouldeſt make thy dear Son a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with Grief, for our ſake? That he ſhould become poor and mean, not having any where to lay his Head; and endured likewiſe cruel

Mockings and Buffetings; and be ſpit upon and abuſed; yea, ſorely wounded and bruiſed; and drink that bitter Cup, that vile and accurſed Death of the Croſs, where he ſhed his moſt precious Blood, and gave himſelf a Ranſom for us!

O Lord! what was the whole Race of Mankind worth, that thou ſhouldeſt purchaſe them with ſo dear a Price; and by the Obedience of thy Son Chriſt Jeſus unto the Death, grant a Pardon for their Rebellion, and ſeal a new Covenant of Grace in his Blood? And by the ſame Blood conſecrate him to be an High Prieſt with Royal Power in the Heavens, to give Repentance and Remiſſion of Sin; and all this ſo freely, that we did not ſo much as deſire it, nor did it enter into the Heart of Men to conceive that thou ſhouldeſt be ſo gracious to them?

O Bleſſed God, how rich is thy Goodneſs, that lets us withal enjoy a great Plenty of worldly good Things; much of that Eaſe and Pleaſure which was denied our Saviour! and yet we are Sinners, and he had no Sin, neither was Guile found in his Mouth; yea, we are ungrateful Sinners, ſo far from being ſenſible as we ought of ſuch infinite loving Kindneſs, that we may juſtly fear leſt this Goodneſs of thine, which was deſigned to ſave us, ſhould through our Unthankfulneſs and Negligence, prove the Occaſion of our greater Ruin.

I moſt

I moſt heartily bewail, O moſt merciful Father, my ſhameful Forgetfulneſs of ſo great Benefits, or my cold and dull Remembrance of them. I lament all the Errors and Miſcarriages of my Life; which are the more heinous, I acknowledge, after ſuch a plain Declaration of thy Diſpleaſure againſt Sin, and of thy marvellous Love to us Sinners. I am afflicted for the Hardneſs and Stupidity of my Heart, which, alas! is oftentimes little pierced and wounded when I reflect upon his Sorrow, and Pain, and Anguiſh for the Sake of Sinners; and for the Liſtleſſneſs and Backwardneſs of my Will, to give up myſelf abſolutely to him, who ſo willingly gave himſelf an Offering for our Sins. I bluſh to remember how weak and ſhort my Thoughts have been; how tranſient and ineffectual my Paſſion, when I have meditated on his bloody Death and Suffering; and am confounded when I think how ſuddenly I have ſtarted from thoſe holy Purpoſes and Reſolutions which the Senſe of his Love hath ſometimes begot in my Heart.

I cannot but accuſe and condemn myſelf here in thy Preſence; but I likewiſe condemn every ſinful Deſire that is ſtill remaining in me, to die and be crucified together with him. I would have nothing contrary to thy Will to have any Power or live any longer in me, and therefore here yield up myſelf intirely into thy Hands, to be conformed in all Things to Chriſt Jeſus, who died for me. Fix my Thoughts

ſo

ſo conſtantly upon his dying Love, and affect my Heart ſo mightily therewith, that I may chearfully undergo any Pains to be made like unto him, in his Humility, in his Obedience, in his Reſignation of himſelf to thy wiſe Will and Pleaſure, in his Patience, in his Meekneſs, in his Charity and Forgiveneſs of his Enemies, in his Willingneſs to quit all Things for thy Name's Sake, and to truſt both Soul and Body with thee; in Well-doing and contended Suffering, whatſoever it be that thou requireſt of me.

I deſire not to live, O Lord, but that I may live to him that died for me. I refuſe no Reproaches, no Poverty, no Pain, or Trouble, if thy Will cannot otherwiſe be accompliſhed by me. Do what thou pleaſeſt with me, ſo that I may be but perfected in Holineſs, and obtain thy gracious Pardon, through the Redemption that is in Jeſus.

I believe the Virtue and Power of his Sacrifice to be everlaſting; and that *when he had by himſelf purged our Sins, he ſat down on the right Hand of the Majeſty on high*; and therefore I look for the conſtant Aſſiſtance of thy good Spirit, which he hath bid me to aſk in his Name, to enable me to purify myſelf, and to tread in the Steps of his humble, meek, and patient Charity, that ſo I may be preſented unblameable and unreproveable in thy Sight, at the Day of his Appearing.

Great

Great is the Wiſdom of thy Love, wherein thy Grace hath abounded towards us in Chriſt Jeſus! Great are the Encouragements which thou haſt given us, by his laying down his Life for us, that he might take it again and live for evermore! Great is the Boldneſs that we have *to enter into the Holieſt by the Blood of Jeſus, by a new and living Way, which he hath conſecrated for us through his Fleſh.* Give me the Grace, I beſeech thee, wiſely to conſider and ponder the merciful Deſign of thy Grace; to walk circumſpectly, and exactly as the Redeemed of the Lord, as an Heir of his Love, that hopes to ſee him in immortal Glory. O that the Comfort and Joy of this Hope, to ſee Jeſus, who was ſo ſcorned and abuſed, ſitting upon his Throne, and triumphing over all his Enemies, may ſo raiſe and enlarge my Mind by the Power of it, that I may overlook and deſpiſe all the petty Temptations of this World; looking ſtill ſtedfaſtly unto him, and following him with unmoveable Reſolution, till I come to poſſeſs that which I hope for, and rejoice eternally in his Love.

Hear me, O Father of Mercies, and deal graciouſly with me far beyond all my Thoughts and Deſires, for his Sake, who is the Author and the Finiſher of our Faith, who died once for us, and now lives for ever to make Interceſſion on our Behalf; by whom all Honour, Praiſe, Thankſgiving, Love, and Obedience, be rendered to thee by me, and by all Mankind, both now and for ever. *Amen.*

A PRAYER ON GOOD-FRIDAY,

In the EVENING.

O Moſt holy, moſt gracious, the only wiſe God, moſt bleſſed for ever! We cannot conceive the Greatneſs of thy Perfections, nor is there any Thing to which we can compare them. Thy Holineſs is more unſpotted than the Light of the Sun; thy Goodneſs ſpreads itſelf more largely than its Beams; thy Wiſdom pierces into thoſe Secrets which are buried in Darkneſs; and though all Things alter and wax old, yet thou art the ſame unchangeable Being, whoſe Years have no End. How ſhall ſuch a vile Wretch as I am take the Boldneſs to look towards thee, and ſpeak unto thee, who art ſo great, ſo glorious, and dwelleſt in Light not to be approached?

Adored be thy wonderful Love, who haſt encouraged our Approaches to thee, by humbling thyſelf to look down upon us, and by appearing graciouſly to us in our own Fleſh. Bleſſing, Honour, Glory, and Praiſe be eternally

nally aſcribed unto thee, who didſt not abhor us, and utterly caſt us out of thy Sight, when we had turned our Backs upon thee; but ſent thy only begotten Son into the World, to call us again unto thee; yea, beſeech us, and oblige us, by laying down his own Life for us, to return unto thee and live.

No Thought can comprehend the unſearchable Riches of thy Grace manifeſted unto us in the Lord Jeſus; who was pleaſed to be vilely intreated, and ſhamefully uſed, to ſuffer the Reproach of the Croſs, and to ſhed his deareſt Blood, that we might not ſuffer the Pain of eternal Death, but be reſtored to the Dignity of thy Children, and advanced to Honour, Glory, and Immortality, together with him. Thou haſt found out a Way to manifeſt thy moſt tender Love to us, without the leaſt Suſpicion of approving and loving our Sins; and to preſerve thy ſovereign Authority, without deſtroying thoſe who were in Rebellion againſt it. Thou haſt ordered ſuch a Chaſtiſement of our Iniquities, as might ſave and deliver us, who deſerved to be puniſhed; and ſo diſpoſed the Means of our Redemption, as to pardon and amend us both at once.

O the Wiſdom of thy Love! which hath *made him to be Sin for us, who knew no Sin, that we might be made the Righteouſneſs of thee our God in him!*[a] O the Riches of thy Grace, which hath abounded to us in all Wiſdom

[a] 2 Cor. v. 21

and

and Prudence! *healing us by his Stripes, and condemning Sin in the Flesh by his Sacrifice for Sin, and making him a Curse for us, that we might inherit a Blessing, and receive the Promise of the Spirit, through Faith in him* [d]. I see, O Lord, how infinitely I am indebted to thee. I behold the Design of thy wise Goodness, in *giving him for us, that he might redeem us from all Iniquity, and purify us to himself a peculiar People, zealous of good Works* [e]. I thank thee with all my Soul, for *his bearing our Sin in his own Body on the Tree, that we being dead unto Sin, should live unto Righteousness* [f]. There is nothing I can more desire, than by *doing Righteousness, to become righteous, even as he is righteous* [g]. Assist me, I beseech thee, to attain this End of his Death and Passion, by the Power of that Holy Spirit which he hath thereby purchased for us, and hath likewise promised to us, and is able to bless us withal.

I dread to think that his precious Blood should be lost and spilt in vain for me; that so great a Price should be cast away, wherewith thou hast brought me to glorify thee with my Body and Spirit, which are thine. O God, preserve in me such a lively Sense of his Grief and Sorrow, of his Pain and Anguish, that I may bitterly hate the Cause of all his Torments, and look on every Sin as the most fearful Curse that can befal me. Preserve me in a constant

[d] 1 Pet. ii. 24. Rom. viii. 3. Gal. ii. 15. [e] Tit. ii. 14. [f] 1 Pet. ii. 24. [g] 1 John iii. 7.

Sense

Senſe of the great Value of my Soul, for which he paid ſo dearly; and a great Eſteem of that Purity, Righteouſneſs, and Goodneſs, for the reſtoring of which, he made himſelf of no Reputation, and took upon him the Form of a Servant, and was obedient to Death, even the Death of the Croſs.

And eſpecially raiſe me to a great Height of Love and Gratitude to thee, and of Hope and Confidence in thy infinite Mercies; of which we have ſuch ſtrong Aſſurance, by his being *delivered for our Offences, and raiſed again for our Juſtification* [h]. Make me more and more in love with that Lowlineſs of Mind, that tender and compaſſionate Charity, that Meekneſs, Patience and Forgiveneſs, which ſhone in his Sufferings; and ſubdue my Will ſo perfectly unto ſuch an abſolute, quiet, and ready Submiſſion to thy holy Will in every Thing, that my Hope in thee may increaſe exceedingly; *and not only ſo, but I may alſo joy in thee my God, through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, by whom we have now received the Atonement* [i].

Hear, good Lord, the Prayers of the whole Church, *which thou haſt purchaſed with thine own Blood.* O that every Member thereof may ſerve thee purely and orderly in the Rank and Condition wherein thou haſt placed them, to their mutual Benefit and Comfort, and to the Conviction of thoſe who are Enemies or Strangers to the Name of the Lord Jeſus; that they ſee-

[h] Rom. vi. 25. [i] Rom. v. 11.

ing

ing our good Works, may glorify thee our heavenly Father, and acknowledge that thou art among us of a Truth. Bleſs all the Miniſters of Religion or Juſtice; and endue them with a great Love to the Honour of our Saviour, and with a great Zeal to make his holy Laws underſtood and obſerved; that as he *gave himſelf for his Church, that he might ſanctify and cleanſe it with waſhing of Water by the Word, and preſent it to himſelf, a glorious Church, not having Spot or Wrinkle, or any ſuch Thing*[k]; ſo *all that name the Name of Chriſt, may depart from all Iniquity*, and endeavour to be *holy, without Blemiſh*, and to be found of him in Peace at the Day of his Appearing. And in particular, I beſeech thee, to repleniſh our Sovereign with a great Meaſure of the Grace of thy Holy Spirit, that he may make all his Subjects joyful, by his pious and prudent Care to promote their Wealth, Peace, and Godlineſs. Let thy Prieſts alſo be cloathed with Righteouſneſs, and all thy Saints ſhout aloud for Joy. *The Lord make them to increaſe and abound in Love one towards another, and towards all Men; to the End he may eſtabliſh their Hearts unblameable in Holineſs, before God, even our Father, at the Coming of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt with all his Saints*[l].

Now unto him that loved us, and waſhed us from our Sins in his own Blood, and hath made us

[k] Eph. v. 26, 27. [l] 1 Theſſ. iii. 12.

Kings

Kings and Prieſts unto God and his Father, to him be Glory and Dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

A PRAYER ON ANY SAINT'S DAY.

THOU art to be praiſed, O Lord of Heaven and Earth, in all thy Works of Wonder, which declare the aſtoniſhing Greatneſs of thy Majeſty, Power, Wiſdom, and Goodneſs, throughout the World. One Generation praiſes thy Works to another, and declares thy mighty Acts; eſpecially the manifold Wiſdom of thy incomprehenſible Love in the Salvation of Mankind by Chriſt Jeſus, who hath brought us the glad Tidings of Peace and Reconciliation with thee, and the Promiſe of immortal Life and Glory, if we will be obedient to thee.

An innumerable Company of holy Souls have, in all Ages ſince, moſt thankfully received and acknowledged this thy Grace and tender Mercy, being obedient to the very Death, and leaving us an Example of pure Love to thee, and conſtant Affection, and hearty Devotion, and ardent Zeal for the Honour of our

our Lord and Maſter Chriſt Jeſus. I add my poor Tribute of Praiſe and Thankſgiving to all that hath been rendered unto thee, O God, who in the Beginning *commandedſt the Light to ſhine out of Darkneſs*, and haſt now ſhone into the Hearts of thy holy Ones, to give the Light of thy divine Knowledge in the Face of Jeſus Chriſt.

Thanks be to thy infinite Goodneſs, as for that glorious Manifeſtation of thyſelf in our Fleſh, and the eternal Redemption that the Lord Jeſus obtained for us by his Blood, and the Power and Dominion which thou haſt given him at thy right Hand, after his Reſurrection from the Dead, and his compaſſionate Interceſſion on our Behalf; ſo for all thoſe Gifts which he gave unto Men, whereby *he made ſome Apoſtles, ſome Prophets, ſome Evangeliſts, ſome Paſtors and Teachers, for the perfecting of the Saints for the Work of the Miniſtry, and the edifying of his Body*. Bleſſing, Honour, Glory and Praiſe be to thee, O Father of Mercies, for all thoſe great Inſtruments of the Holy Ghoſt, the illuſtrious Miniſters of thy Grace, the Ambaſſadors for Chriſt, and the bleſſed Champions of his holy Truth, who have communicated the Light of thy glorious Goſpel to the World, and overcome the Kingdom of Darkneſs *by the Blood of the Lamb, and the Word of their Teſtimony, not loving their Lives unto the Death* [m].

[m] Rev. xii. 11.

Adored

Adored be the Mightineſs of that Grace, which *out of the Mouths of Babes and Sucklings ordained Strength* [n]. Glory be to thee. O Chriſt, whoſe *Strength was made perfect in Weakneſs* [o]. Glory be unto thee, who did commit this heavenly *Treaſure unto earthen Veſſels; who approved themſelves the Miniſters of God in much Patience, in Affliction, in Neceſſities, in Diſtreſſes, in Stripes, in Impriſonments, in toſſing to and fro, in Labours, in Watchings, in Faſtings; that the Excellency of the Power might be of God, and not of Men* [p].

I heartily ſubmit the Power of that divine Truth, for which *they ſuffered the Loſs of all Things, and counted them but Dung, that they might win Chriſt, and be found in him* [q]. And I rejoice that thou haſt had ſo many faithful Servants who have loved thee, O Lord, thou Lover of Souls, more than their own Lives; moſt earneſtly deſiring to be inſpired with the very ſame Spirit which was in them, that I may leave ſome Example, though never ſo ſmall, of hearty and univerſal Obedience to thoſe that ſhall come after.

Accept, good Lord, of my ſincere Reſolution to be a *Follower of them, even as they were of Chriſt* [r], *in Pureneſs, in Knowledge, in Long-ſuffering, in Kindneſs, in Love unfeigned* [s]; *that my Rejoicing may be this, The Teſtimony of my Conſcience, that in Simplicity and godly Sincerity, not with fleſhly Wiſdom, but by thy Grace, I have*

[n] Pſal. viii. 2. [o] 2 Cor. xii. 9. [p] 1 Cor. iv. 7. 2 Cor. vii. 4, 5. [q] Phil. iii. 8. [r] 1 Cor. xi. 1. [s] 2 Cor. vi. 6. 7.

had

had my Converſation in the World[t]; *providing for honeſt Things, not only in the Sight of our Lord, but alſo in the Sight of all Men.*[u] Make me conſtant and courageous in the Profeſſion of thy holy Truth, and be willing *to paſs through Honour or Diſhonour, through good Report or evil Report*, for the Lord's Sake; hoping that *if the Sufferings of Chriſt abound in me, my Converſation alſo ſhall abound by Chriſt*[x].

Stir me up, I beſeech thee, and quicken me, that I may *ſhew the ſame Diligence* that thy Saints have done, *to the full Aſſurance of Hope unto the End; that I may not be ſlothful, but a Follower of them, who through Faith and Patience inherit the Promiſes*[y]. *How ſhall I eſcape if I neglect ſo great Salvation, which at firſt began to be ſpoken of by the Lord, and was confirmed by them that heard him; God alſo bearing them Witneſs with Signs and Wonders, and with divers Miracles of the Holy Ghoſt, according to his own Will*[z]? O continue the mighty Aſſiſtance of that divine Power with me, that behaving myſelf ſo *holily, juſtly, and unblameably*[a] as they did, I may *reſt* at laſt together with *them, when our Lord Jeſus ſhall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty Angels, to be glorified in his Saints, and admired in all them that believe*[b].

And now preſerve me this Day from diſhonouring *that worthy Name whereby we are called*;

[t] 2 Cor. i. 12. [u] 2 Cor. viii. 21. [x] 1 Cor. i. 5. [y] Heb. vi. 11, 12. [z] Heb. ii. 3, 4, 5. [a] 1 Theſſ. ii. 10. [b] 2 Theſſ. i. 7, 10.

knowing

knowing how we ought to follow them, who behaved not themſelves diſorderly among thoſe that believed[c]. That by this Reſt from my ordinary Labours, I may not learn Idleneſs, nor *grow weary of Well-doing*; but the better diſpoſed in my Mind, by all the Refreſhments of my Body, to do my Duty in the Place and Relations wherein thou haſt ſet me, with greater Chearfulneſs, Fidelity, and Diligence, to the End of my Days. O that it may be my higheſt Pleaſure to attend on thee, and praiſe thee in the Aſſemblies of thy Saints. Give me ſuch a ſenſible Delight and Joy in reading and meditating on thy holy Word, and in the Remembrance of all thy Mercies, that nothing in this World may make me forget the Sweetneſs of it; but every Thing may excite me more to praiſe, extol, and magnify thy loving Kindneſs to me; and to expreſs my Thankfulneſs in a free and ready Obedience to thy Commands, till I be made fit to be admitted into the Company of the Bleſſed, there to praiſe thee World without End. *Amen.*

[c] James ii. 7. 2 Theſſ. iii. 7, 13.

A

PRAYER

Upon the DAY of one's BIRTH.

O Moſt mighty Lord, the Former and Preſerver of all Things! all thy Works praiſe thee, and declare thy infinite Greatneſs, Wiſdom, and Bounty; and call upon us likewiſe to magnify thy Name with our continual Praiſe and Thankſgivings. I humbly bow myſelf before thy glorious Majeſty, who inhabiteſt Eternity, acknowledging that it is but a little Time ſince I was not; and that I am not gone down again into Silence, is to be aſcribed only to thy omnipotent Goodneſs, which brought me into Being, to praiſe thee among the reſt of thy Creatures.

I thank thee, O Lord, *by whom I was fearfully and wonderfully made, and curiouſly wrought in my Mother's Womb* [d]. *Thou art he that took me thence; thou didſt make me hope when I was upon my Mother's Breaſt. By thee I have been holden up ever ſince* [e], and moſt carefully provided for, when I could not think at all of thy tender Mercies towards me. And therefore now that I am grown to the Uſe of my Rea-

[d] Pſal. cxxxix. 14, 15. [e] Pſal. xxii. 9. lxxi. 6.

ſon,

ſon, *my Praiſe ought to be continually of thee. O bleſs the Lord, my Soul, and all that is within me bleſs his holy Name. Bleſs the Lord, O my Soul, and forget not all his Benefits*[a]. *While I live will I praiſe the Lord; I will ſing Praiſes to my God while I have any Being*[b].

Pardon, I beſeech thee, my Ingratitude, in that I have no earlier remembered thee, my Creator, *in whom I live and move, and who giveſt me all Things richly to enjoy.* Accept of my unfeigned Reſolutions to preſerve hereafter a more grateful Senſe of thy great Goodneſs to me, and to glorify thee with my Body, and with my Spirit, which are thine. Vouchſafe me the Aſſiſtance of thy heavenly Grace, that I may return them back upon thee, pure and undefiled, full of Wiſdom and ſpiritual Underſtanding, full of Love and devout Affection to thee, full of all good Works, and the Fruits of Righteouſneſs, to *which thou haſt created me again by Chriſt Jeſus, that I ſhould walk in them*[c].

Bleſſed be thy Name, who haſt ſent him to give me a new and better Life. I thank thee for all the Helps and Comforts of his Religion. O that my Heart may be poſſeſſed with ſuch a ſtrong Belief of it, and ſuch a ſincere Love to it, that I may feel indeed that I am born again, and made a new Creature; meditating daily on thy Mercies; breathing forth my Soul to thee in Prayers, and Praiſes, and Thankſgiv-

[a] Pſal. ciii. 1, 2. [b] Pſal. cxlvi. 2. [c] Eph. ii. 10.

ings; walking in the Spirit of *Goodneſs, Righteouſneſs, and Truth*; *and proving what is acceptable to our Lord*[d].

All the Thanks and Services I am able to render to thee, are nothing worth: But the longer I live, I moſt earneſtly deſire the more hearty and the purer they may be, and the more I may be enabled to do for thy Honour and Glory. If thou ſuffereſt me to continue in this Life another Year, O that in the Concluſion of it, I may preſent myſelf unto thee again more improved in all that is Praiſe-worthy. The Time paſt is too much to have miſpent; O that I may ſuffer no more of my precious Hours to run waſte, but that they may all be taken up, and carefully laid out in Well doing.

Help me diligently to huſband ſo great a Treaſure, which thou entruſteſt me withal, and to employ it in order to a bleſſed Eternity. Let not the *Care of this World, and the Deceitfulneſs of Riches, and the Luſts of other Things entering in, choak thoſe good Seeds*[e] which thou haſt ſown in my Heart, *ſo that they may become more fruitful*; but enable me, as I grow in Years, to increaſe alſo in *Love, Joy, Peace, Long-ſuffering, Faith, Meekneſs, Temperance*[f], and all other Fruits of thy Holy Spirit.

And ſince I have been thy Care ſo long, I will ſtill hope in thee continually, that I ſhall *yet praiſe thee more and more*[g]. Caſt *me not off*,

[d] Eph. v. 9. [e] Mark iv. 19. [f] Gal. v. 22. [g] Pſal. lxxi. 14.

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if I live to the *Time of old Age*; *forsake me not when my Strength faileth. O God, thou hast taught me from my Youth, and hitherto I have declared thy wondrous Works. Hold me up* ſtill, *and I ſhall be ſafe. Order my Steps in thy Word, and let not any Iniquity have Dominion over me*[h]: That ſo *if the evil Days come and the Years draw nigh, when I ſhall ſay, I have no Pleaſure in them*[i] I may rejoice in the Remembrance of a well-ſpent Life; and having a good Hope in thee, *the Day of my Death may be better than the Day of my Birth*[k].

O that Death may never ſurprize me, nor find me unprepared. Help me to walk always ſo circumſpectly, and to be ſo mindful of my latter End, that when Death comes, it may be no Stranger to me, but I may entertain it as an Acquaintance and a Friend; and with the ſame Chearfulneſs put off my Body and lay it down in the Grave, that I put off my Cloaths, and lay myſelf down in my Bed. I commit myſelf entirely to thee, both now and ever, waiting for thy Mercy in Chriſt Jeſus, at that great Day, when thou ſhalt awake us out of the Duſt. O that I may then be numbered amongſt the Juſt, and ſtand at the right Hand of our Saviour, and hear that joyful Voice, *Come, ye Bleſſed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the Foundation of the World*[l]. Amen.

[h] Pſal. cxix. 117, 133. [i] Eccleſ. xii. 1. [k] Eccleſ. vii. 2. [l] Matth. xxv. 34.

A PRAYER FOR Resolution in Well-doing.

That we may be ſtedfaſt, unmoveable, always abounding in the Work of the Lord, here follow particular Prayers for that Grace; and in caſe of any failing in our Duty, for Repentance and Pardon, and for an Heart truly ſenſible of the Divine Goodneſs, and more conſiderate and careful for the Time to come.

O Moſt bleſſed God, the Fountain of Wiſdom, Power, Strength, and all other Perfections! from whoſe Bounty I have formerly received, and I at preſent enjoy innumerable Bleſſings; and have no Hope for the Future, but what ariſes from the ſame everlaſting Spring of all Good, which is never weary of deriving its Benefits unto us; I ought, in a Senſe of my entire Dependance upon thee, to be very humble, very thankful, exceeding ſolicitous for thy Favour, and deſirous of thy Good-will; ſorrowful for my Neglects of thee; aſhamed of the pitiful Returns I have made to thee; and moſt peremptorily reſolved, and zealouſly bent

bent to approve myſelf hereafter to thy Divine Majeſty in all Well-doing.

Accordingly I am now proſtrate before thee, to implore the continued powerful Preſence of that infinite Grace, to which I owe theſe holy Thoughts that are in my Mind, and by which alone I can hope to perform and accompliſh them. Poſſeſs me, O God, with ſuch a full and lively Senſe of thy undeſerved and unwearied Love and Kindneſs to me, in paſſing by ſo much Ingratitude, and ſo many Tranſgreſſions; in laying on me ſuch ſtrong and manifold Obligations to be happy by obeying thee, and in affording me ſuch powerful Aſſiſtances to attain that Happineſs, that I may love thee proportionably with a more conſtant and ſtedfaſt Affection, and feel an unalterable Will ſettled in me, to do the Duty thou requireſt of me, into whatſoever State and Condition of Life thou ſhalt be pleaſed to diſpoſe me.

When we have loved thee all that we can, I am ſenſible we have loved thee but a little; becauſe we, and all that we can do, are ſo inconſiderable. How ſmall a Thing then is it, how poor and contemptible that we return unto thee, when we love thee not ſo much as we are able! O bleſſed God, cauſe ſuch a delightful Senſe of thy Goodneſs to fall upon my Heart, and to abide with me, that all the Powers of my Soul may ſtrain themſelves to love thee, and unite themſelves unto thee, in an

unalterable Choice of thy Will, to be the ſole Governor of all my Deſigns, and Deſires, and Actions throughout the whole Courſe of my Life. I love myſelf moſt, I ſee, when I love thee entirely; and ſerve myſelf, by doing thee all faithful Service. In Union with thee I am at Reſt and Peace; and in conſtant Adherence to thee conſiſts my eternal Safety and Security.

To thee, therefore, with the deliberate and full Conſent of my Will, I devote myſelf; reſolving to love and ſerve thee with all my Heart, and with all my Soul, and with all my Strength. I vow unto thee, as I have done often, all ſincere Obedience; and proteſt againſt every Thing that is contrary to thy holy Commands, as contrary alſo to my own Senſe and Judgment, to my moſt ſober and ſerious Thoughts, and to my moſt adviſed Counſels and Reſolutions. They all acknowledge how juſt and reaſonable, how good and pleaſant, how profitable and beneficial, how honourable and glorious it is to be a Doer of thy Will; which, beſides the preſent Contentment and Satisfaction of it, hath a great Recompence of Reward.

O preſerve in my Mind a conſtant Remembrance, how dearly I am bought by the precious Blood of thy Son Chriſt; how early I was dedicated to thy Service; how often I have ſince found abundant Cauſe to determine I would be thine; how I have condemned myſelf

ſelf for the Breach of thoſe holy Purpoſes; and what great Satisfaction of Mind I have had in the keeping of thy Commandments; that ſo I may never wilfully offend againſt ſo many forcible Reaſons obliging me to my Duty; but be ſwayed by them, notwithſtanding all the Temptations of the World, the Fleſh, or the Devil, to perſevere in a reſolved Obedience to thee for ever.

And by the Power of thy Holy Spirit, I beſeech thee to make them clearer, ſtronger, and more effectual; that I may have the ſame Thoughts, Paſſions, Inclinations and Purpoſes now, which I ſhall be apt to have when I come to die. For which End, help me often to place myſelf before thy Judgment-ſeat, and to conſider that I muſt give an Account for all that I have received; for thy Holy Goſpel; for thy Divine Inſpirations; for the Counſels and Exhortations of thy Miniſters; for all the Means and Helps of growing better, and for all the Encouragements I have, even from the good Things of this Life, which thy Bounty beſtows upon me; that by a careful Preparation for ſuch a Reckoning, I may be kept cloſe and ſtedfaſt to my Duty, in hope of that exceeding glorious Reward, which our Lord will beſtow upon all his faithful Servants, at the Day of his appearing. *Amen.*

Another to the ſame Effect.

O Moſt great and glorious Majeſty of Heaven and Earth, who art of unſpotted Purity, and in whom there is not the leaſt Shadow of Change, I know that all the Reſolutions of thy Wiſdom are moſt juſt and equal; and I cannot chooſe, when I am in my right Mind, to be guided by any thing elſe but thy holy Will; who deſigneſt, I ſee, in all the Revelations thou haſt made of thyſelf to us, to make us like to thy own bleſſed Nature. I do here own and acknowledge moſt heartily, the Righteouſneſs and Goodneſs of all thy Laws; I admire the Lovelineſs of thy Image in Wiſdom, Righteouſneſs, and true Holineſs; I loath my own Deformity whilſt I am unlike thee. I implore thy renewing Grace, as the greateſt Bleſſing I can receive from thee, and I bind myſelf to the faithful Improvement of it, as the weightieſt Employment of my Life.

I am abundantly ſatisfied in the Declaration thou haſt made of thy gracious Purpoſes towards us. I renounce all Thoughts and Deſires that are contrary thereunto, and reſolve that Holineſs and eternal Life ſhall be my Deſign and Study. I expect no Pardon, O my God, but in the Ways of Sobriety, Righteouſneſs, and Godlineſs. I hope for a bleſſed immortality only by patient Continuance in Well-doing. I conſent to every Part of the holy Goſpel,

Gospel, and add my Testimony to the Truth of its Words, *That none of thy Commandments are grievous; but thy Yoke is easy, and thy Burthen light.* I hope, O Lord, by thy Grace, I shall never contradict myself, by disowning, in my Practice, those free and serious Professions; but that I shall every Day so call to Mind my own Protestations and Resolutions, as to continue, with an unwearied Diligence, in stedfast Obedience to thy Commands, and to grow still stronger in the Grace of the Lord Jesus.

O that every such Address as this unto thy divine Majesty, may leave a greater Sense of thee, and of my Duty, and of my Happiness, and of my manifold Obligations, and repeated Promises upon my Heart! That I may always go out of thy Presence with my Mind more towards Heaven; with lower Thoughts of all the Enjoyments of this Life; with a greater Relish of Piety and Holiness, and more passionate Desires to become every Way such as thou canst approve, and love, and delight in for ever. And assist me, I humbly beseech thee, so constantly from above, that whatsoever good Thoughts are at any Time in my Mind, they may grow to fixed Principles; and all heavenly Affections may become a new Nature, and the constant Temper of my Spirit; and all my Purposes and Resolutions may advance into a serious Practice and Exercise of Godliness; and all the Actions of an holy Life may grow more free, chearful, vigorous, and full of Delight,

light, till they be compleated in everlasting Bliss, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER.

After Relapse into any Sin.

I Cast down myself before thee, O most holy Lord of Heaven and Earth, with an humble, sorrowful, and penitent Heart, adoring thy infinite Grace, which suffers such a vile and miserable Sinner to approach into thy Presence. I am thine indeed, dedicated long ago to thy Service, which I have since chosen as the most perfect Freedom; but so much the greater Reason I have to be abashed before thee, and to be astonished at thy forbearing Mercy, which prolongs the Life of such an one as I am, who have been so false to thee, and to my own Resolutions. I remember in the Bitterness of my Soul, how many Obligations thou hast laid upon me to observe and obey thee; how often I have acknowledged the Justice and Goodness of thy Precepts; and how frequently I have promised and vowed to conform myself unto them; and what great and

precious

precious Promises thou hast made to me of invaluable Blessings; and yet, Wretch that I am, I have been drawn aside from thy Ways by easy and slight Temptations; and for a small and momentary Pleasure or Gain, have ventured the Loss of thy Favour, which is better than Life itself.

O God, that thou shouldest have Patience with so perfidious, so ungrateful, so senseless a Creature as I am! That thou shouldest permit me to see the Light of the Sun, and hast not condemned me to utter Darkness, in weeping, wailing, and gnashing of Teeth! but that thou giveſt me Leave to look towards Heaven, and that I have an Heart to speak unto thee, and still may call thee Father, saying, *Father, I have sinned against thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy Son.* O the Riches, O the unsearchable Riches of thy Grace! I can never sufficiently admire thy exceeding great Long-suffering towards me in Christ Jesus, nor sufficiently abhor and loath myself for my foul Revolt from thee, who art so kind and gracious; especially if I should still continue to abuse such tender Mercy and Compassion towards me. Tribulation and Anguish, Indignation and Wrath, I acknowledge, is the due Portion of those that do Evil; and if thou shouldest abandon me, and cast me out of thy Sight, I must confess that thou art righteous, and that I reap but the Fruits of my own Ways,

* Here mention the particular Sin.

and

and ſuffer the deſerved Puniſhment of my late Iniquity.

But thou, O God, delighteſt in Mercy, and *there is Forgiveneſs with thee, that thou mayeſt be feared*[a]. Thou haſt ſworn that thou deſireſt not the Death of a Sinner, but rather that he ſhould return and live; and haſt ſent thy Son Jeſus, with the moſt endearing Arguments of the greateſt Love, to perſuade us to return to our Duty. Behold, O Lord, I return with Grief and Affliction of Spirit, that I have offended thee, deteſting the Thoughts of doing the like again, and reſolving to be more careful, and diligent, and circumſpect for the Time to come. O let me live to the Praiſe of thy omnipotent Grace; enabling me to perform theſe Reſolutions in a more ſtrict and exact Obedience to thy holy Commands the reſt of my Days.

Mercy, Mercy, I moſt earneſtly beg, O Father of Mercies, for the Sake of him that died for me: Not merely for the Pardon of my Sins, but for a divine Power to enable me to ſubdue them. I deſire not thy infinite Goodneſs to bear me out in Rebellion againſt thy Righteouſneſs, Purity, and Truth; but that by thy Goodneſs I may be Partaker of them; that my Repentance may be accepted; and that it may be hearty and ſtedfaſt, never to be repented of. I deſire no Peace, Quiet, and Eaſe in my Heart, but in a conſtant and reſolute Oppoſition to all the Temptations of the World,

[a] Pſal. cxxx. 4. Ezek. xviii. 32.

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the Flesh, and the Devil; and in the Hope I have, that through thy gracious Assistance it shall be victorious.

O settle me, I humbly beseech thee, in this holy Disposition, that I may preserve an entire Friendship with thee hereafter, by an happy Agreement with thy Will and Pleasure in every Thing. And for that End make me *strong in the Lord, and in the Power of his Might**; that being sensible of my own great Weakness, I may more earnestly depend upon thy Aid from above, by an humble and vigorous Faith in thy Almighty Goodness. Maintain such a clear Light in my Mind, that may keep me from being deceived with the vain Shadows and empty Appearances of satisfactory Pleasure in any Thing of this World. Fortify my Will with the Power of thy divine Love, that I may overcome all sensual Affections that may arise in me, at any Time, against thy sacred Commands. And possess me with such a lively Hope of those good Things which Christ hath promised in the other Life, that may make me active and zealous, *stedfast and unmoveable, always abounding in the Work of the Lord, knowing that my Labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.*

Thou knowest the Secrets of all Hearts; let thy Mercy, O Lord, be upon me, according as I deliberately and sincerely choose to *cleave unto thee with Purpose of Heart.* O cast

* Ephes. vi. 10.

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me not away from thy Presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me: but hide thy Face from my Sins, and blot out all mine Iniquities[p]. *Create in me a clean Heart, O God, and renew a constant Spirit in me. Make my Heart to be sound in thy Statutes, that I may never be ashamed. Keep back thy Servant also from presumptuous Sins; let them not have Dominion over me; then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great Transgression. The Words of my Mouth, and the Meditation of my Heart, shall be accepted in thy Sight, O Lord, my Strength, and my Redeemer.* Amen.

A THANKSGIVING *to the Divine Goodness, for any Hope of a* PARDON *after such a* RELAPSE.

O Eternal and most blessed God, the Fountain of all Good, from whence all Creatures derive whatsoever they enjoy. They are all poor and indigent Things, full of Necessities and Wants, which are continually supplied out of thy Fulness. But the Wants of our Souls are the most lamentable, because, besides the Poverty of Creatures, we have made a great many Needs to ourselves, by our wilful Departure from thee, in whom we live and move and have our Being. We stand in Need of thy Pardon, of thy converting Grace, and the

[p] Psal. li. 9, 10, 11. cxix. 80. xix. 13, 14.

greater

greater supplies of thy Holy Spirit, which we know not how with any Confidence to expect. But that all these Wants are not too big for thy infinite Goodness to relieve, and that thou hast been pleased most compassionately to consider our miserable Condition, in sending Christ Jesus into the World, and filling him with all the Treasures of thy Grace and Mercy, that he might dispense them to us, according to our several Necessities.

O how excellent is thy loving Kindness, O God! how surpassing is thy Love! that will pass by the insolent Offences of thy Creatures against thy high Authority, and Sovereign Goodness, and not let them eternally perish without a Remedy, in that forlorn Condition into which they have brought themselves! Blessed, for ever blessed be thy sparing Mercy, which hath *delivered Christ Jesus for our Offences*, and testified thy Acceptance of his Sacrifice of himself by *raising him again for our Justification*. Blessed be thy Name for thy gracious Declaration which thou hast made, that *If any Man sin, we have an Advocate with thee, Christ Jesus the Righteous, who is the Propitiation for our Sins*. I most thankfully receive these glad Tidings, *which are worthy of all Acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the World to save Sinners*. Thanks be to thy tender Mercy, which hath restored us to a Possibility of recovering thy Grace and Favour. The smallest Hopes

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of it I acknowledge, is more valuable than the greateſt Abundance of all the Enjoyments and Pleaſures of this preſent Life.

What Praiſe therefore, what Love, what Obedience am I bound to render unto thee, who haſt given me ſuch a good Hope of Peace and Reconciliation with thee; and thereby delivered me from the Horror of my own guilty Mind, remembering that I have adventured to oppoſe my Will to thine? I ought for ever, with the moſt zealous Devotion of a grateful and obedient Heart, to admire and ſtand amazed at thy inconceiveable Grace, which will not ſtrictly mark what is done amiſs; but accept of our Repentance and Amendment, inſtead of an entire and conſtant Performance of our Duty to thee. *O the Height, the Depth, the Length, and the Breadth of thy Love in Chriſt Jeſus!* which is the Satisfaction of our Heart, and the Joy of our Lives; which would otherwiſe be intolerably grievous and burthenſome to us, whilſt we remember that we are Sinners.

Fill me, O Lord, with a moſt ardent Love to thee, now that I here offer up myſelf, in Truth and Sincerity of Heart to be wholly diſpoſed by thee. Behold, O Lord, my Will lies at thy Feet; I would have no Will of my own, but deſire only that thy Will may be done. And fill me with an holy Fear of thee, that thy indulgent Mercy may not make me remiſs, and negligent, and preſumptuous again to offend thee; but a perpetual Senſe of my

new Obligations to thee, in reviving my Hopes, which I had forfeited in thee, may render me more watchful, more diligent, more earneſt and ſolicitous, more humble and diſtruſtful of myſelf, and more fervent to implore the powerful Succours of thy Divine Grace.

O that it may be as natural to me to pray to thee, as it is to breathe. And thou *who filleſt the Hungry with good Things*, pour into me Life and Strength, and Vigour; and in a conſtant Dependance on thee, and hearty Endeavour to do thy Will. *Strengthen me with Might by thy Spirit in the inner Man*[a]; that notwithſtanding the ſtrongeſt Temptations wherewithal I may be aſſaulted, and notwithſtanding the Weakneſs and Feebleneſs of my own Spirit to reſiſt them, I may perſevere courageouſly in Well-doing unto the End, and finiſh my Courſe with Joy, and lay myſelf down to reſt in an holy Hope, that I ſhall enter into a State of Safety and Security from all Danger, and for ever in the Joy of our Lord. *Amen.*

A PRAYER *for the Divine Grace.*

O Moſt bleſſed God, the high and mighty One, who inhabiteſt Eternity, and art what thou always waſt, and ever will be, the moſt perfect Power, Wiſdom, Goodneſs, and

[a] Eph. iii. 16.

Truth, the Fountain of all the Perfections that are in us, we ought to addreſs ourſelves to thee in the greateſt Humility of Spirit, having nothing to preſent thee withal which we can call our own; and being unable by all our Righteouſneſs to profit thee, who ſtandeſt in need of none of thy Creatures. But alas! O Lord, we have robbed thee of that which we have received from thee, and are ſo far from giving thee any Thing of ours, that we have not returned to thee that which is thine.

O the miſerable Condition, therefore, into which we have brought ourſelves! who are not ſo much as fit to receive any more from thy Divine Bounty; and, which is worſe, have been too unwilling to partake of thy Favours! O thy infinite Love in Chriſt Jeſus, which hath beſtowed the richeſt Grace upon us, whether we would or no! Thou haſt honoured our Nature with thy Divine Preſence, dwelling in it. Thou haſt delivered him to die for our Sins. Thou haſt given us a bleſſed Hope in thee, by his Reſurrection from the Dead. Thou haſt *ſent him to bleſs us, in turning every one of us from our Iniquities*[1]; and given him all Power in Heaven and Earth, that he may ſuccour and ſtrengthen us when we are tempted, and enable us to overcome.

I thank thee with all my Soul, for this abundant Grace ſo freely and undeſervedly conferred upon us; which encourages me to hope

[1] Acts iii. 26.

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in thee now, that thou inclineſt my Heart towards thee, and haſt given me a thankful Senſe of thy Love, and ſome Will to obey thee, and holy Reſolutions to cleave unto thee in Well-doing; that thou wilt not deny me the conſtant Aſſiſtance of thy good Spirit, which our Saviour hath bid us aſk of thee, to ſtrengthen, confirm, and ſettle what thou haſt begun to do for me, in a perfect Love and ſtedfaſt Obedience to all thy holy Commands.

O God of all Grace and Might, the Root of our Life, and Power, and Strength, without whom all good Deſires and Purpoſes wither and die; withdraw not the ſweet Influences of thy Holy Spirit from thy unworthy Servant, who entirely confides in thee, and hath no Hope but in thy infinite Mercies. Remember not againſt me former Iniquities, let not my late Backſliding and Return to Folly cut me off from the Communion of thy Grace; which is wont to preſs into thoſe Souls that open themſelves to receive it, and ſeriouſly thirſt after it. My Soul thirſteth for thee, O God, that I may be more firmly united to thee, and be made more exactly like thee, in unchangeable Righteouſneſs, Purity, and Goodneſs.

Cheriſh and increaſe the moſt faint, but ſincere Motions, which thou ſeeſt in me towards a more compleat Participation of thee; And eſpecially preſerve in me a full Confidence in thy Almighty Love, as ready to accompliſh

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the Desires and Endeavours of all those who yield up themselves unto it, in hearty Willingness to be governed by it; that being borne up by this strong Hope in thee, my Helper and exceeding great Reward, no Temptation may be able to prevail over me; but I may walk stedfastly and evenly with thee, in all Conditions and Circumstances of Life. Make me feel so much of the Comfort of this Faith, and Love, and Hope, and Obedience, reviving me to a delightful Sense of a blessed Immortality, that whatsoever Allurements or Discouragements I meet withal in this World, they may only provoke me to give a greater Proof of all those in a constant Adherence to my Duty, and occasion the Increase of my unspeakable Joy and Satisfaction.

And enlarge my Heart thereby to such a Measure of Christian Piety, that I may not only be innocent and harmless, but forward also to do Good, and not only be contented with my Portion, but rejoice in our Lord always; and rejoice not only to do thy Will, but to suffer also for Righteousness Sake, knowing that great shall be my Reward in Heaven. Bless my Endeavours to add *to Faith, Virtue; and to Virtue, Knowledge; and to Knowledge, Temperance; and to Temperance, Patience; and to Patience, Godliness; and to Godliness, Brotherly-kindness; and to Brotherly-kindness, Charity: That doing these Things, I may never fall; but an Entrance may be ministered to me abundantly into*

into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ [a]. Amen.

A short Prayer when any Man's Occasions call him to a Place where he fears Danger.

O Almighty God, who art every where, and more especially present to those Souls that look up unto thee with an high Esteem of thy Favour and Grace, and with hearty Desires to continue in thy Love by patient Continuance in Well-doing: In this humble Faith in thy Divine Goodness, and with a due Fear and Reverence of thy Glorious Majesty, I prostrate my Soul and Body before thee, to put myself into thy most gracious Protection, and to beg the powerful Assistance of thy holy Spirit, to preserve me whersoever I am, in a dutiful Observance of all thy *holy Commands*.

I am sensible, O Lord, that we live in a World of Temptations, and that our Nature is weak, and ready to yield to them; and that our Affections are apt to wander after Vanity; and that sudden Passions oftentimes transport us from our Duty. But I know withal, that a Sense of thy all-seeing Eye, and of the Life to come, and of the Rewards and Punishments which thou wilt render, according to our Works, will certainly over-awe all sinful Mo-

[a] 2 Pet. i. 5, 6, 7, 10, 11.

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tions in me, and break the Force of the strongest Temptations that assault me. And therefore, the greater the Danger is, the more earnestly I sue unto thee, to be possessed with a piercing Sense, and lively Remembrance of these Things, which may abide with me alway; and especially this Day in every Place and Company into which I shall come.

O that I may not be so forgetful of thee, and of mine own Good, as for the small and momentary Pleasures of this World, to hazard the Loss of those great and eternal Joys which we expect in the other Life. But enable me, O most gracious God, so to behave myself, that when I have passed through all the Employments and Occasions of this Day, I may bring myself back again into thy Presence, so pure and undefiled, that I may begin those Joys that are to come, in chearful Praises of thee, and in a comfortable Sense that thou dwellest in me, and art leading me by thy Holy Spirit to immortal Happiness, through Christ Jesus. *Amen.*

A Prayer for serious and effectual Consideration, the better to establish all good Resolutions.

O Most glorious Majesty of Heaven and Earth, who art above the highest of all our Thoughts, and much more beyond all our Words: But that thou art Great and Mighty, we

we know by thy Works of Wonder which we behold. And the admirable Diſpoſure and Government of all Things tell us, that thou art infinitely wiſe, and knoweſt all Things. We ſee how good thou art, by the large Proviſion which thou haſt made for all thy Creatures every where. Thy Precepts teach us how juſt and holy thou art, and by thy Promiſes we know thou art gracious and bountiful; and by thy Threatnings, that thou hateſt Iniquity; and by thy executing of both, that thou art faithful and true, and wilt ſave the Godly, and puniſh Evil-doers.

When we conſider all this, we may juſtly wonder at ourſelves, that we ſhould not fear thee, and reverence thee, and love thee, and ſeek thy Love and Favour above all Things, by ſtudying to pleaſe thee in univerſal Obedience to thy bleſſed Will, which deſign to employ thy Almighty Power to make us ſo great, ſo happy, and ſo glorious. And there is no other Reaſon, I ſee, why we are no better affected towards thee, but becauſe our Thoughts are exceeding ſhort, and light, and vain; and we ſo ſeldom conſider, and deeply ponder what we confeſs thou art, and in what Relation we ſtand to thy Divine Majeſty.

Vouchſafe therefore, O God of all Grace, to awake my Mind to a more lively and ſteadfaſt Remembrance of thee, my Creator, my Redeemer, my daily Benefactor, and my moſt loving and tender-hearted Father in Chriſt Je-

ſus.

ſus. O that no Day may paſs without ſome ſerious and conſiderate Thoughts of thoſe Things which ſo nearly concern my everlaſting Welfare. And by thy powerful Preſence with me, enlighten my Mind to a clearer Senſe of them. Quicken and enliven that Senſe, I humbly beſeech thee, and make it ſo ſtrong and moving, that it may preſs upon my Heart and Affections, till it prevails with me to ſurrender Soul and Body abſolutely unto thee.

Pardon all my former Neglects of thee, and let them not hinder the Influences of thy Holy Spirit upon me, by which I may be changed into thy Image and Likeneſs. Sanctify my Underſtanding, that I may rightly conceive thy holy Truths, and fully apprehend them. Sanctify my Memory, that I may keep in Mind all that I know of thee, and of thy bleſſed Will revealed to us in Chriſt Jeſus. Sanctify my Will, that I may chearfully embrace, and entirely conſent to thine in all Things. And ſanctify all my Affections, that I may love thee with all my Heart, and Soul, and Strength, and delight in thee more than in all the Contentments of this Life; and hope more for thy Glory, than all worldly Preferments; and fear thee more than the greateſt Potentate upon Earth; and take more Care for my Soul and eternal Things, than for this Body, and all its momentary Pleaſures; and hate all Sin more than my greateſt Enemies; yea, help me to love mine Enemies; to do

good

good to them that do evil to me; to bleſs them that curſe me, and pray for them that deſpitefully uſe me.

For which End, ſanctify all my Paſſions, that I may be angry at nothing ſo much, as that I have diſpleaſed thee; and in an holy Indignation at myſelf, and in Revenge of my former Negligence and Diſobedience, may be more ſtrict and ſevere in the Performance of all my Duty for the Time to come. Sanctify me throughout in Body as well as Spirit, that I may poſſeſs it in Holineſs and Honour, and all my Senſes may adminiſter Occaſions to my Mind to remember thee, to praiſe thee, and to bleſs thee, who every Way ſo liberally provideſt for me. Sanctify all my Converſation with others, and all the Employments of this Life, that I may ſtill be heavenly-minded, and have a Reſpect to my laſt End, and everlaſting Good. Sanctify all the Bleſſings of Health, and Strength, and Peace, and Plenty, and Friends; yea, and all the Croſſes and Afflictions of this Life, that they may make me more ſerious and conſiderate, and help more perfectly to purify my Spirit, and diſpoſe me for the Happineſs of the other World.

Raiſe me, O Lord, to ſuch an exceeding great Delight in theſe holy Thoughts and Meditations, and entertain me with ſuch a bliſsful Senſe of thee, when I addreſs myſelf unto thee, that I may rather be unwilling to depart from thy Preſence, than weary of converſing

with thee. And when I return to my other Employments again, O that my Mind may be often looking back towards thee, my God, my exceeding Joy, desirous to be always with thee, and longing to enjoy thee in unchangeable Love and perfect Likeness to thee; unto which I most humbly beseech thee to bring me, for thy Mercies sake declared in Christ Jesus, who lives for ever to make Intercession for us. *Amen.*

EJACULATIONS.

The better to preserve a constant Sense of God in the Mind, and pious Dispositions in the Heart, here follow certain short Ejaculations (as we are wont to call them) in which, upon several Occasions, any Man may lift up his Soul to God; and if he doth it fervently, may find it of great Effect.

When he awakes in the Morning, he may say;

I Laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me, Psal. iii. 5.

How precious also are thy Thoughts unto me, O God? how great is the Sum of them? If I would count them, they are more in Number than the Sand. When I wake, I am still with thee, Psal. cxxxix. 17, 18.

When

When he is dreſſing himſelf.

O how beautiful is the Ornament of a pure, humble, meek, patient, and charitable Spirit! Help me, O God, to *put on the Lord Jeſus*, in theſe and all other Virtues.

When he goes into the Church, or his Cloſet.

My Heart is fixed, O God, my Heart is fixed; I will ſing and give Praiſe, Pſal. lvii. 7.

When he begins any Buſineſs.

My Help cometh from the Lord, which made Heaven and Earth, Pſal. cxxi. 2.

The Lord Jeſus Chriſt be with my Spirit, 2 Tim. iv. 22.

When he goes forth of his Doors.

Hold thou up my Goings in thy Paths, that my Footſteps ſlip not, Pſal. xvii. 5.

Order my Steps in thy Word, and let not mine Iniquity have Dominion over me, Pſal. cxix. 133.

Give thy Angels charge over me, to keep me in all my Ways, Pſal. xci. 11.

When he walks abroad, and beholds all Things round about him, he may ſay, as in *Pſal.* civ. 24.

O Lord, how manifold are thy Works! in Wiſdom haſt thou made them all; the Earth is full of thy Riches, &c.

At Meals.

O taſte and ſee that the Lord is good. He filleth our Hearts with Food and Gladneſs, Pſal. xxxiv. 8. Acts xiv. 17.

Bleſſed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with Benefits, Pſal. lxviii. 19.

At Candle-light.

Lord, lift thou up the Light of thy Countenance upon us, Pſal. iv. 6. Or,

God be merciful unto us, and bleſs us, and cauſe his Face to ſhine upon us, Pſal. lxvii. 1.

When he goes to Bed.

I will both lay me down in Peace and ſleep; for thou, Lord, only makeſt me dwell in Safety, Pſal. iv. 8.

He that keepeth me doth not ſlumber. The Lord is my Keeper; the Lord is my Defence, who neither ſlumbers nor ſleeps, Pſal. cxxi. 4, 5.

In the Night-ſeaſon.

O happy Souls, that *reſt not Day nor Night, ſaying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come!* Rev. iv. 8.

O great God! the Darkneſs hideth not from thee, but the Night ſhineth as the Day; the Darkneſs and the Light are both alike to thee, Pſal. cxxxix. 12.

My

My Soul ſhall be ſatisfied as with Marrow and Fatneſs, and my Mouth ſhall praiſe thee with joyful Lips, when I remember thee upon my Bed, and meditate on thee in the Night watches. Becauſe thou haſt been my Help, therefore in the Shadow of thy Wings will I rejoice, Pſal. lxiii. 5, 6, 7.

On a ſick Bed, or in other Afflictions.

It is the Lord, let him do what ſeemeth him good, 1 Sam. iii. 18.

It is good that a Man ſhould both hope, and quietly wait for the Salvation of the Lord, Lam. iii. 26.

Bleſſed be the Lord for my long continued Health, and all his other Benefits. Let the Remembrance of thy former Mercies refreſh my Soul, and encourage my Hope, and ſtrengthen my Patience, with quiet Reſignation of myſelf to thy good Pleaſure.

At the Point of Death.

I have waited for thy Salvation, O Lord, Gen. xlix. 18.

Into thy Hand, O Father, I commend myſelf, who breathedſt into me the Breath of Life. *Lord Jeſus receive my Spirit*, which thou haſt redeemed by thy precious Blood, and ſanctified by thy Holy Ghoſt.

When he hears a Paſſing-Bell.

Verily every Man, at his beſt State, is altogether Vanity! Pſal. xxxix. 5.

O teach me ſo to number my Days, that I may apply my Heart unto Wiſdom, Pſal. xc. 12.

In a Time of Plague.

O Lord, correct us, but with Judgment; not in thine Anger, leſt thou bring us to nothing, Jer. x. 24.

In the Time of War.

O Lord, ariſe, help us, and deliver us for thy Name's ſake.

From our Enemies defend us, O Chriſt, graciouſly look upon our Affliction.

King *Aſa* cried unto God in this manner, when he was going to give Battle to a Million of Enemies.

Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no Power. Help us, O Lord our God, for we reſt on thee, and in thy Name go againſt this Multitude, 2 Chron. xiv. 11.

In any other public Calamity.

Spare thy People, O Lord, and give not thy Heritage to reproach, Joel. ii. 17.

A great

A great Offender may often ſay with the Prodigal,

Father, I have ſinned againſt thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy Son.

And with the Publican,

God be merciful to me a Sinner.

After any Mercy received.

What ſhall I render unto the Lord for all the Benefits that he hath done unto me? Pſal. cxxvi. 2.

Every Day will I give Thanks unto thee, and praiſe thy Name for ever and ever, Pſal. cxlv. 2.

I ſhall mention no more, becauſe I would not invite the Reader to make this Sort of Prayer too common. For by that Means it will be in Danger to grow cold, and loſe its Force and Efficacy, by growing faſhionable. To that Purpoſe, I remember, a devout Prelate of our own (Biſhop *Hall*) ſomewhere delivers his Judgment about this Matter. But if any one find that he can with Profit turn his Thoughts this Way, upon all Occaſions, he may eaſily invent more Ejaculations. *The Meaſure of them is* (as that fore-named Perſon ſpeaks) *to preſerve our Hearts in a conſtant, tender, and godly Diſpoſition, which ſhall be further actuated upon all Opportunities, by the Exerciſe of our more enlarged and fixed Devotions.*

A ſhort Prayer for Submiſſion *to God, in caſe of any great Loſs in a Man's Eſtate, Relations, or Friends.*

O Moſt holy, holy, holy, the Supreme Lord and Governor of the World, who art unſearchable in thy Wiſdom, unſpotted in thy Juſtice, and irreſiſtible in thy Power; whoſe Goodneſs hath no Bounds, but what thy wiſe and holy Will gives unto it; and art immutable in theſe, and all other Perfections, the great God, moſt bleſſed for ever. It is moſt reaſonable and agreeable to our Nature, moſt profitable and convenient to our Intereſt, moſt ſatisfactory and ſuitable to our wiſeſt Choice, by an abſolute and quiet Submiſſion in all Things to thy Sovereign Wiſdom, Juſtice, and Goodneſs, to declare our Fear and Reverence of thee; our unfeigned Love to thee, and Deſires to pleaſe thee; our Truſt and Confidence in thee, and ready Diſpoſitions to obey thee.

Thou art too great, I know, to delight in grieving us thy poor Creatures, and haſt other Ways of procuring thy own Pleaſure, than by our Miſery, Pain, and Torment. And therefore, in a full Perſuaſion of thy unerring Providence over us, and infinite Charity towards us, I here moſt humbly and freely reſign all my Thoughts and Deſires unto thee, ſubmitting myſelf entirely to thy Orders, and reſolving by thy gracious Aſſiſtance to reſt contented with whatſoever

whatſoever thou appointeſt. *The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, bleſſed be the Name of the Lord*[z]. Bleſſed be thy Name, who haſt continued to me ſo long, the Enjoyment of ſo many good Things. Bleſſed be thy Name, that I had any Thing to part withal, whereby I may teſtify my Faith in thee, and Affection to thee. Bleſſed be thy Name, that I have any of the Comforts of this Life ſtill remaining, and that they are not all taken away from me. I have nothing too great, or too dear to be reſigned to thee, from whoſe Bounty I received all I have, and who art my beſt, and my eternal Friend.

O that no repining Thoughts may ariſe in my Heart, to diſorder and diſcompoſe my Duty towards thee, or towards my Neighbour: But help me rather to think wherein I have offended thee, and carefully to amend it; to place my Affections more ſtedfaſtly on thoſe unmoveable Things which are above; to lay up my Treaſure and Hope in Heaven, and to prepare myſelf by perfecting my Purity, and Thankfulneſs, and Patience, and all other Virtues, to be tranſlated thither, where our Life is hid in thee with Chriſt Jeſus.

I thank thee, O Father of Mercies, that thou haſt given us ſuch everlaſting Conſolation, through thy Grace in him. Every Day will I bleſs thee, and I will praiſe thy Name for ever and ever, for thoſe exceeding great and

[z] Job. i. 21.

precious Promiſes which thou haſt given us to ſupport and comfort us in all the Troubles of this Life. Increaſe my Faith, ſtrengthen and confirm my Hope; lift up my Spirit continually to that bleſſed Place where Jeſus is, that I may rejoice in hope of that immortal Life, when all Tears ſhall be wiped from our Eyes, and there ſhall be no Sighing, nor Sorrow any more; but [we * who are now parted aſunder] ſhall meet together to acknowledge, with eternal Praiſes, thy wiſe and merciful Providence; which by Ways moſt contrary to our Deſires, hath brought us to endleſs and undiſturbed Bliſs.

Thou knoweſt, O Lord, the Weakneſs and Frailty of our Nature, and therefore vouchſafe me the conſtant Aſſiſtance of thy good Spirit (for which I depend upon thee) to enable me to continue in this humble, quiet, and duriful Submiſſion to thee, waiting for that peaceable and joyful Repoſe in the eternal Reſt which thou haſt prepared for thy People, through thy Mercies in Chriſt Jeſus; by whom all Glory, Honour, Love, and Obedience be rendered to thee, by me and all Mankind, both now and for ever. *Amen.*

* *This Clauſe to be uſed only on the Loſs of Friends or Relations.*

A Prayer

A Prayer which a pious Soul may uſe, that is full of Doubts, and much troubled in Mind.

O Lord, *the Father of Mercies, and the God of all Comfort*[z], I acknowledge and adore thy eternal Power, Wiſdom, and Goodneſs. I render thee my moſt hearty Thanks for all the Benefits thou haſt freely beſtowed on me, from my firſt coming into the World until this Time. *Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful Works which are to us-ward, they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: If I would declare and ſpeak of them, they are more than can be numbered*[a]. Above all, I bleſs thee for that great Demonſtration of thy Love and Good-will to Mankind in Chriſt Jeſus, whom thou haſt ſent into the World to ſave Sinners; and for bringing me to a clear Knowledge of him, Faith in him, and ſome Love, I hope, towards him, and unfeigned Affection to thy holy Will, declared to us in his bleſſed Goſpel.

O God, thou haſt taught me from my Youth up, and hitherto been marvellouſly gracious to me. Hide not, I beſeech thee, thy Face now from me, and put not thy Servant away in Diſpleaſure. Thou haſt been my Help, leave me not, neither forſake me, O God of my Salvation: But for Jeſus Chriſt his Sake, I humbly intreat thee to pardon and paſs by all my Neglects of thee, and Unthank-

[z] 2 Cor. i. 3. [a] Pſal. xl. 5.

fulneſs

fulneſs to thee, and Offences againſt thee. And as I here ſincerely devote and dedicate my whole ſelf, Soul, and Body, to thy Service, ſo help me, O my God; and further me in the Performance of my Duty, by the Grace of thy Holy Spirit. To thee all Hearts are open, and from thee no Secrets are hid: Deal with me according to the earneſt Deſire, and full Purpoſe of my Soul, to conform myſelf in all Things to thy holy Will.

Settle in me an unmoveable Faith in thy infinite Mercies, a conſtant Love, and chearful Affection to my Duty, and a Readineſs of Heart to obey thee, and to ſubmit to thy wiſe Appointments in every Condition. The whole Earth is full of thy Mercy; thou openeſt thy Hand, and ſatisfieſt the Deſire of every living Thing: O refuſe not the humble Deſires of my poor Soul, which gaſpeth after thee, even as the thirſty Land. Thou who giveſt to the Beaſts their Food, and to the young Ravens when they cry, O ſatisfy me early with thy Mercies, that I may rejoice and be glad all my Days. Compoſe my broken and diſturbed Thoughts, quiet my troubled and diſordered Spirit, and appeaſe all the Ragings and Tumults there, by a ſweet Senſe of thy moſt tender Mercies, which have been ever of old, and endure continually.

Baniſh from me all cauſeleſs Fears and Jealouſies; deliver me from all unprofitable Sadneſs and Dejections of Spirit; keep me

from

from rash judging of myself, and much more from charging thee foolishly. Bestow upon me a chearful Spirit, by an humble Hope in thee, and by referring myself wholly to thee. Endue me with such Wisdom and Uprightness, that I may neither neglect my Duty, nor suspect thy gracious Acceptance of me. Give me an hearty Zeal to do the best that I am able, and a settled Persuasion that thou requirest no more of me.

Defend me, O most gracious God, from dishonouring thee, and my Religion, by distrusting thy Goodness, and calling thy loving Kindness in question towards those that are sincerely bent to please thee. Remove all troublesome Imaginations from me, and give me a clear Understanding of thee, and of myself. Or when I am in Darkness and Confusion of Thoughts, grant me so much Light and Judgment, as not to conclude myself forsaken by thee, but to reflect upon thy long continued Favours to me, and many Deliverances of me; that so I may resolve still to hope in thee, to bear my present Trouble patiently, and to resign my Will absolutely to thy good Pleasure. And, good Lord, enable me to look beyond these Clouds, to that blessed State whither my Saviour is gone, in which there is no Darkness at all, and in an humble Hope of coming to the same Place where he is, to content myself with any Condition, whilst I am here so far

far remote from that Region of Light, and Glory.

Hear me, most loving and merciful Father, I most humbly beseech thee. Pity my great Dulness and Deadness of Heart. Strengthen my weak and feeble Endeavours. Support my fainting Spirit, and cause it humbly to hope in thee for ever. Confirm and establish every good Thought, Desire, and Purpose, which thou hast wrought in me. Perfect that which thou hast begun. Make me to grow in Wisdom, Faith, Love, and willing Obedience. Conduct me hereafter so evenly and steadily, so peaceably and quietly, so chearfully and securely in thy Ways, that I may glorify thee whilst I live, by encouraging others to accompany me in thy Service: And when I come to die, may resign my Soul unto thee with an undisturbed Mind, in an holy Hope also of a joyful Resurrection of the Body at the great Day of the Lord Jesus; to whom be Glory and Dominion for ever. *Amen.*

A Prayer to be said by others, for one that is troubled in Mind.

O God, the only Hope, the Refuge, the Comfort and Satisfaction of our Souls, of whose Goodness and tender Mercy all the World hath so many Testimonies, and we ourselves have had such long Experience, that we are

are encouraged thereby, though moſt unworthy, to make this humble Addreſs to thy Divine Majeſty.

Thou ſeeſt, we know, and pitieſt the Miſery and Torment of this afflicted Spirit; none of his Sighs or Groanings are hid from thee; but to expreſs alſo our Charity and compaſſionate Concernment for him, we are bold to recommend him to thy Favour, as a great Object of the Bowels of thy Mercy, which are in Chriſt Jeſus.

We ought indeed, above all Things, to admire thy moſt wiſe Goodneſs, which *hath ſet forth him to be a Propitiation through Faith in his Blood* [c], and invited even the greateſt Sinners to return unto thee and live. Bleſſed, eternally bleſſed, be thy great and glorious Grace, which haſt ſent us ſuch glad Tidings of Peace and Reconciliation, and aſſured Hope, that if we obediently believe thy holy Goſpel, *thou will be merciful to our Sins, and remember our Iniquities no more* [d]. O Father of Mercies, who *openeſt the Eyes of the Blind, and raiſeth them that are bowed down* [e], open the Eyes of this thy Servant, that he may ſee thy marvellous Love revealed in Chriſt Jeſus. Touch his Spirit with ſuch a powerful Senſe of it, that he may both heartily and abſolutely conſent to be governed by thy Laws, and likewiſe be revived

[a] *Or her.* [c] Rom. iii. 25. [d] Heb. viii. 12. [e] Pſal. cxlvi. 8.

with

with a comfortable Belief of the Truth of all thy precious Promiſes.

Free him from all Confuſion of Thoughts, and beſtow on him a clear and diſtinct Apprehenſion of all Things belonging to his Peace. And as thou haſt wrought in him a Fear of thy Divine Majeſty, and many holy Deſires after thee, and perſuaded him, we hope, to be willing in all Things to live godlily, and ſo poſſeſs him with an humble Belief, that thou wilt always enable him to do accordingly, and never fail to ſtrengthen him againſt all the Power of the Enemy, till he hath got the Victory, and triumphs in Hope of thy Salvation.

Raiſe up his Spirit, moſt mighty Lord, by the Power of a moſt ſtrong Faith in thine Omnipotent Goodneſs, which delights to cheriſh the leaſt Gaſpings and Pantings in us after true Righteouſneſs: Bear him up by this above all the Clouds wherein he is encompaſſed, into a clear Heaven of Light and Joy. Quiet and appeaſe all his tumultuous Paſſions, that he may ſilently liſten to thy Voice in thy holy Goſpel, ſaying, *Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you Reſt*[1].

Thou who ſearcheſt the Hearts, knoweſt that he unfeignedly ſubmits himſelf to the Yoke of thy Laws. It is the preſent Grief and Affliction of his Soul, that he is no more perfectly ſubject to it. O refreſh him with the

[1] Matt. xi. 28.

Belief,

Belief, that thou art more desirous than he, that there should be a perfect Reconciliation of his very Nature and Disposition to thee; and that therefore thou wilt not deny him the Assistance of thy mighty Grace, to help him to fulfil thy whole Good-will and Pleasure.

O that he may take Courage from this Hope, to begin to do thy Will; and continuing in Well-doing, and growing more and more in Strength and Power to perform his Duty, he may be delivered from all slavish Fears and Jealousies, and Distrust of thy divine Goodness. Especially keep him from Despair of thy Mercy, as the greatest Dishonour to thee, and to thy abundant Grace in the Lord Jesus.

O thou who didst invite even those great Sinners, *who, by wicked Hands, took and crucified thy dear Son, to repent and be baptized for the Remission of Sins*[s]; lift up this dejected Soul to an humble Confidence in thee, that thou wilt not deny him the same Mercy. And as thou hast sworn that thou hast no Pleasure in the Death of the Wicked, but that he should turn from his evil Way and live, so be pleased, blessed God, to make him sensibly feel his Soul is turning to thee; since he can find no Comfort and Satisfaction, but only in thy Love and Favour, which he esteems better than Life itself.

And that he may obtain thy Pardon, help him *from his Heart to forgive every one that*

[s] Acts ii. 22, 38.

hath

hath trespassed against him[k]. And if *he have taken any Thing from any Man wrongfully*, grant him Grace to *restore it* to him[l]: *To give Alms likewise of such Things as he hath*[k], *and to break off his Sins by Righteousness, and his Iniquities by shewing Mercy to the Poor*[l]; that thou who art rich in Mercy, mayest *be favourable unto him, and he may see thy Face with Joy*[m].

Hear us, good Lord, and give every one of us Grace to walk exactly, and to keep pure Consciences, void of Offence towards thee, and towards all Men; that so we may live and die in Peace, looking for thy Mercy in Christ Jesus, unto eternal Life. *Amen.*

Another for a PERSON *in the same Condition.*

O Lord, the Father of Spirits, the Lover of our Souls, who art pleased best in our Love and hearty Affection to thee, and wouldest have us delight ourselves in the Thoughts of thee, and rejoice continually in thy holy Name; give us Leave to render our humble Thanks to thy Divine Majesty, for this Knowledge which thou hast given us of thy blessed Nature; and in Imitation of it, to recommend, with most fervent Charity, this desolate and afflicted Soul to thy tender Mercies. He is

[k] Matt. xviii. 35. [l] Luke xix. 8. [k] Luke xi. 41. [l] Dan. iv. 27. [m] Job xxxiii. 26.

filled

filled with trembling Thoughts and frightful Apprehenſions of thee. The Dread and Terror of thy Diſpleaſure hath overwhelmed his Spirit. *He is troubled, and bowed down greatly; he goeth mourning all the Day long*[a]. O that thou wouldeſt be pleaſed ſo to repreſent thyſelf unto him, that he may be poſſeſſed with the ſame Senſe which thou haſt wrought in our Minds; that *thou art Love*, and deſireſt to be loved, and chearfully ſerved by all that worſhip thee.

Thou haſt graciouſly wrought in him already a Senſe of his Duty towards thee. Great Sorrow overflows his Soul for his Neglects of thee, and Offences againſt thee. And out of this Depth he ſighs and groans, and cries unto thee with earneſt Deſires and Purpoſes to live more holily for the Time to come. Awaken his Mind, good Lord, to very ſenſible and thankful Reflections upon this Grace which thou haſt begun to ſhew him. Bleſs all the pious Counſels and Inſtructions which thou likewiſe vouchſafeſt unto him to the encouraging of his Hope in thee, that thou, *who haſt begun a good Work in him, will perfect it, even until the Day of Jeſus Chriſt*[c]. Remember him, that as thy *Majeſty is, ſo is thy Mercy*[b]; and that thy Power delights to ſhew itſelf in doing good unto thy Creatures; eſpecially to the humble, the thankful, and the willing

[a] Pſal. xxxviii. 6. [c] Phil. i. 6. [b] Eccl. ii. 18.

Perſons,

Perſons, who are ready to ſubmit themſelves to thy bleſſed Will.

O that this divine Faith may baniſh all thoſe Fears that drive him from thee; and that he may rather fear leaſt he ſhould offend thy Divine Majeſty, by not confiding in thoſe Promiſes of Mercy, which thou haſt made in thy holy Goſpel to all returning Sinners. O that all his Thoughts and Care hereafter, may only be to make his Purpoſe of pleaſing thee in all Things, ſerious, hearty, and unfeigned; believing thou wilt graciouſly accept ſuch holy Reſolutions, and certainly further and ſucceed them, as the Effect of thine own Inſpirations.

Suffer not his Spirit to be oppreſſed under the Senſe of his great Weakneſs, or diſcouraged tho' he fall ſhort of his preſent holy Deſires, Purpoſe, and Endeavours; but bear him up in a ſtrong Perſuaſion, that by ſincere, conſtant, and unwearied Diligence in Well-doing, he ſhall at laſt obtain the Victory, through the Power of thy Holy Spirit aſſiſting of him. Make him ſee how reaſonable it is moſt gratefully to acknowledge thy infinite Mercies, if after much Pains, many Conflicts, and long Patience, he may recover a State of Friendſhip with thee, that ſo he may not ſpend his Time in dejected Complaints, nor ever faint in his Mind, or deſpond in the Chriſtian Courſe; but ſtill purſue the compleat Maſtery over himſelf, in aſſured Hope that thou wilt be with him, and never leave him, or forſake him.

We

We bleſs thee for that Inſtance of thy exceeding Grace to the chiefeſt of Sinners, which thou gaveſt in thy holy Apoſtle of us *Gentiles*, *Who was a Blaſphemer, and a Perſecutor, and injurious; but for this Cauſe obtained Mercy, that in him Chriſt Jeſus might ſhew forth all Long-ſuffering, for a Pattern to them which ſhould hereafter believe on him to Life everlaſting*[q].

Above all, we bleſs thee for our Lord Jeſus himſelf, whom thou ſenteſt in our Fleſh, that he might ſave Sinners. We bleſs thee for all the miraculous Cures which he wrought on miſerable Creatures, whereby he demonſtrated his great Charity towards us; for the gracious Proclamation he hath made of thy pardoning Mercy, and for the univerſal Invitation which he hath given to every one *that is athirſt, to come and take the Waters of Life freely*[r].

We thank thee for his Death upon the Croſs, that he might make a Propitiation for the Sins of the whole World; for his great Love in praying then for his bittereſt Enemies, that they might be forgiven; for his Reſurrection and Exaltation at thy Right Hand, *to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give Repentance and Forgiveneſs of Sins*; and that he hath given to his Apoſtles the *Miniſtry of Reconciliation*, and admitted us into a Covenant of Mercy and Forgiveneſs, by Baptiſm into his Name; and hath left us the Cup of Bleſſing, which *is the new Covenant in his Blood for the Remiſſion of*

[q] 1 Tim. i. 13, 16. [r] Rev. xxii. 17.

Sins;

Sins; and given Power and Authority to his Miniſters, to abſolve all thoſe who heartily repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Goſpel. We thank thee, O Lord, for the Aſſurance we have, *that he lives for ever to make Interceſſion for us, and is able to ſave to the uttermoſt all thoſe that come to thee by him*; and that he *is a merciful and faithful High Prieſt, to make Reconciliation for the Sins of the People, being touched with a Feeling of all our Miſeries*[a].

We cannot doubt, O bleſſed God, of thy gracious Intentions and Deſires to pardon us, and to make us better, when we ſeriouſly meditate on all theſe Teſtimonies of thy divine Love; and on that eaſy and gentle Yoke which thou layeſt on us, to love thee with all our Heart, and our Neighbour as ourſelves; and on the promiſed Aſſiſtance which we have Hopes of from above, to inſpire, enliven, and ſtrengthen us to all Well-doing and patient Suffering.

O that this languiſhing Soul may likewiſe feel the comfortable Influence of all theſe heavenly Truths, reviving and chearing his Spirit into a good Hope in thee, that thou wilt mercifully accept the Oblation which he is willing to make of himſelf to thee, and alſo conſtantly enable him to offer himſelf with greater Affection and more pure Devotion to thy Service. Scatter all the Clouds that darken his Mind,

[a] 1 John ii. 2. Luke xxiii. 34. Acts v. 31. 2 Cor. v. 18. Matt. xxvi. 28. Heb. vii. 25. ii. 17. iv. 15.

and

and lift upon him the Light of thy Countenance. *O give him the Comfort of thy Help again, and eſtabliſh him with thy free Spirit. Quicken him, O Lord, for thy Name's Sake; for thy Righteouſneſs Sake bring his Soul out of Trouble. Put Gladneſs into his Heart, and revive him again, that he and we may rejoice in thee* [t]. Amen, Amen. O God of all Grace, *Fulfil in him all the good Pleaſure of thy Goodneſs, and the Work of Faith with Power* [u], *that the Name of our Lord may be glorified in him, according to that Grace which was exceeding abundant, with Faith and Love which is in Chriſt Jeſus; to whom be Glory and Praiſe for ever and ever* [x]. Amen.

A Prayer *in the Beginning of a* Sickness.

When Sickneſs arreſts any Perſon, it is Time for him preſently, in the very Beginning of it, to ſearch and try his Ways; *ſorrowfully to confeſs the Sins of which he finds himſelf guilty, with a full Purpoſe of Amendment; to adviſe with his ſpiritual Guide, and before his Spirit be feeble and broken, to recommend himſelf heartily to our bleſſed Saviour, by receiving the Communion of his Body and Blood, therein making a Commemoration of his wonderful Love, and devoting himſelf again to his Service. And having*

[t] Pſal. li. 12. cxliii. 11. iv. 7. lxxxv. 6. [u] 2 Theſſ. i. 11. [x] 1 Tim. i. 14.

ſet

ſet his Houſe in Order (as the Prophet ſaid to Hezekiah, Iſa. cxxxviii. 1.) *and ſettled his Eſtate, to acknowledge God's great Goodneſs to him hitherto, and to ſubmit himſelf wholly to his good Pleaſure in ſuch manner as followeth.*

O Lord, the Sovereign of the World! *who doeſt what thou pleaſeſt in Heaven and in Earth*[y], and delighteſt moſt in Acts of Bounty, as all thy Works every where declare, and art *full of Compaſſion and Mercy, long-ſuffering, and very pitiful, and forgiveſt Sins, and ſaveſt in Time of Affliction*[z]; I acknowledge myſelf, among the reſt of thy Creatures, to be moſt deeply indebted to thee, whoſe Life thou haſt prolonged to this Time in much Health, and Plenty, and Peace, together with the Enjoyment of ſpiritual Bleſſings in the Lord Jeſus. I thank thee, and praiſe thee; all that is within me bleſſes thy holy Name, to whoſe wiſe and good Providence I wholly refer myſelf for the Time to come, placing my entire Truſt and Confidence in thy Almighty Goodneſs, Faithfulneſs, and Truth, which endures for ever.

I ought to receive with all Thankfulneſs whatſoever comes from thy Hand, and believe that to be good for me, which thy infinite Wiſdom and Kindneſs orders and allots for my Portion. Accordingly I accept, with all humble and dutiful Affection, this thy Fa-

[y] Pſal. cxxxv. 6. [z] Eccleſ. ii. 11.

therly

therly Chaſtiſement. I acknowledge thy Care of me, and ſubmit to what thou wilt be pleaſed to lay upon me. If thou thinkeſt good to exerciſe me with a longer Sickneſs, and to let the preſent Indiſpoſition of my Body proceed to a greater Diſorder, not my Will, but thine, O heavenly Father, be done.

I only wait on thee for the comfortable Preſence of thy Holy Spirit, to ſupport my Soul by Faith, and Hope, and Patience, under all the Pains I may endure. Lay no more upon me, O Father of Mercies, than I ſhall be able to bear, and lay upon me what thou pleaſeſt. Free me for the preſent from all murmuring and repining Thoughts; and, for the future, make the Sickneſs and Anguiſh of my Body a bleſſed Inſtrument to purge my Spirit more perfectly from all Pride and Vanity, from all Covetouſneſs and Worldly-mindedneſs, and from all inordinate Love of any of the Pleaſures of this Life.

I believe, O bleſſed Jeſus, that thou liveſt for ever, who ſufferedſt and diedſt for us; and that thou haſt a great Compaſſion towards thoſe who would gladly follow thee, though it be through Sufferings. Behold, O Lord, I commend myſelf to thy mighty Love, deſiring, above all Things, to be made conformable to thee in Meekneſs, in Humility, in Patience, in entire Reſignation to God's holy Will and Pleaſure, and in perfect Satis-

faction in his Fatherly Love and Kindneſs, whatſoever my Condition be.

I am ſenſible, O God, that I have not employed my Time to the utmoſt Advantage of my Soul, and to thy Honour and Glory; but have waſted many precious Hours, and ſeveral Ways neglected my Duty towards thee[a], and been but an unprofitable Part of this World; ſo that I am not worthy to continue any longer in it. But I hope thou wilt vouchſafe me thy gracious Pardon, and receive me to Mercy, if thou calleſt me hence (for in thy Hands, O Father, I commend my Spirit, who haſt redeemed me by the precious Blood of Jeſus Chriſt.) And that if thou prolongeſt my Days on Earth, I ſhall ſerve thee with greater Diligence, and Strictneſs, and Zeal, and Chearfulneſs, to the End of my Life.

I deſire not to live, but that I may perfect Holineſs in thy Fear, and ſecure to myſelf, by doing more Good, an happy Entertainment into the Society of the Bleſſed in the other World. I ſee already the Emptineſs and Inſufficiency of all Enjoyments upon Earth. *All Fleſh is Graſs, and all the Goodneſs of it as the Flower of the Field. The Graſs withereth, the Flower fadeth, but thy Word ſtandeth faſt for ever*[b]. *In thy Word* therefore, *O Lord, and gracious Promiſes, is my Hope. This is my Comfort in my Affliction*[c].

[a] *Here reckon up the Sins you may have committed.* [b] Iſa. xl. 6, 7, 8. [c] Pſal. cxix. 50, 81.

And

And my perfect Contentment, I ſee, lies always in thy Love and Favour alone, which is better than Life itſelf. O ſettle me in a certain and unmoveable Poſſeſſion of it, by what Means thou pleaſeſt. Do but love me, and preſerve me in a lively Senſe of thy good Will towards me, and diſpoſe of me as thou thinkeſt good. *In the Multitude of my Thoughts within me, thy Comforts ſhall delight my Soul*[4]. I will *rejoice* even *in* the Midſt of *Tribulations, and glory in thy holy Name, who makeſt all Things work together for good to them that love thee. Though I walk through the Shadow of Death, I will fear no Evil, for thou art with me; thy Power and tender Care, they ſhall comfort me*[5].

Accept, good Lord, of theſe my Deſires and Reſolutions; *Hear me, O God, and have Mercy upon me. Lord be thou my Helper*, for Chriſt Jeſus his Sake, my ever bleſſed Redeemer. *Amen.*

A Prayer to be ſaid by the Family with the ſick Perſon.

It will be ſeaſonable here to put the devout Reader in Mind, that when he is in Diſtreſs, and deſires Mercy of God, it ought to excite his Charity to others that are in Miſery, and diſpoſe him to ſhew Mercy to them. For though that be not

[4] Pſal. xciv. 19. [5] Rom. v. 2. viii. 28. Pſal. xxiii. 3. xxx. 10.

Canonical Scripture which we read, Tob. xii. 9. Alms doth deliver from Death; *yet this is*, With the Merciful, God will ſhew himſelf merciful. (*Pſal.* xviii. 25.) Bleſſed is he that conſidereth the Poor; the Lord will deliver him in Time of Trouble. (*Pſal.* xli. 1, 2, 3.) *If he do not* preſerve him, and keep him alive, *yet* the Lord will ſtrengthen him upon the Bed of Languiſhing; he will make all his Bed in his Sickneſs. *Therefore as thou recommendeſt thyſelf to God, and deſireſt others to pray with thee, ſo remember that* Prayer is good with Faſting, and Alms, and Righteouſneſs, *Tob.* xii. 8.

O Lord, the Father of our Spirits, who *giveſt* to us and all Creatures, *Life, and Breath, and all Things*, we ſinful Duſt and Aſhes, bluſh to lift up our Eyes unto Heaven, when we conſider our vaſt Diſtance from thee, and reflect upon thy unſpotted Holineſs, and our Impurity; thy infinite Wiſdom, and our wretched Folly; thy Power, and our Weakneſs; thy Eternity of Life, and our ſhort Continuance. *We are but of Yeſterday, and know nothing, becauſe our Days upon Earth are a Shadow*[f]. *When thou with Rebukes doſt correct Man for Iniquity, thou makeſt his Beauty to conſume away like a Moth*[g]: *Surely every Man is Vanity*[h].

But ſo great is thy condeſcending Grace, that thou haſt aſſured us thou wilt not deſpiſe

[f] Job viii. 9. [g] Pſal. xxxix. 11. [h] Job xxv. 6.

ſuch

ſuch Worms as we are. Nay, thou haſt encouraged us, bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, to approach unto thee with ſome Confidence that thou wilt mercifully receive us, though we have highly offended thy Divine Majeſty, having ſent thy dear Son into the World to ſave Sinners; to purify our Natures; to endue us with a divine Underſtanding; to ſtrengthen our Weakneſs, and to comfort us with the Hope of an immortal Life.

Behold, O Lord, the Oblation which we make to thee of moſt thankful Hearts, devoted to thy Service, whoſe Love and tender Mercies have ſo exceedingly abounded towards us. We will praiſe thee, and glorify thee as long as we have any Being, for this great Salvation which Chriſt Jeſus hath brought to Light by his Reſurrection from the Dead, to an eternal Kingdom in the Heavens. We are humbly bold to hope in thee, that thou who *haſt not ſpared thy own Son, but delivered him up for us all, wilt with him alſo freely give us all Things*[1]. O thou *Father of Mercies, and God of all Comfort*, who haſt not thought a Crown of everlaſting Life and Glory too much to promiſe us, we believe that thou wilt not deny us what is needful and fit for us, both for our Souls and our Bodies, in our Paſſage through this World to that Honour, Glory, and Immortality.

In this Confidence we more particularly recommend this thy ſick Servant to thy infi-

[1] Rom. viii. 32.

nite and moſt compaſſionate Mercy. Settle in [*] *his* Soul a ſtedfaſt Faith, that thou *doſt not willingly grieve the Children of Men*, but intendeſt Good to *him* by this Affliction. And now that other Pleaſures and Enjoyments fail *him*, repreſent thyſelf effectually unto *him*, as *his* true Happineſs and Satisfaction. Whereinſoever *he* hath neglected thee, or committed any Offence againſt thee, make *him* deeply ſenſible of, and heartily ſorrowful for *his* Folly. And as *he* earneſtly deſires Pardon and Forgiveneſs of thee, ſo work in *him* a ſerious Reſolution to live more circumſpectly and exactly in Time to come. Aſſiſt *him* graciouſly, O Lord, that *he* may give a Proof of *his* ſincere Intentions hereafter, to ſubmit *himſelf* in all Things to thy Will, by *his* patient Submiſſion to thy Fatherly Correction now. O that *he* may ſo quietly, ſo meekly, ſo humbly and chearfully reſign *his* Will unto thee, to ſuffer what thou inflicteſt, that *he* may be the more diſpoſed readily to deny *his* own Deſires, in doing whatſoever thou commandeſt.

For which End make *him* thoroughly apprehenſive of thy Sovereign Power and Authority over all Creatures. Poſſeſs *him* with a great Reverence of thy Wiſdom and Juſtice; with an entire Confidence in thy Goodneſs and Charity, and with a thankful Remembrance of all thy paſt Mercies to *him*, which have been innumerable, that ſo *he* may the better endure

[*] *Or her.*

what

what thou layeſt upon *him* at preſent, and ever chooſe to follow thy Directions, and ſubmit to thy Orders, and love thy Commandments, and delight to do thy Will, O God.

Bleſs and ſucceed thoſe Remedies that are uſed for the reſtoring *him* to *his* former Health, that *he* may live to perform *his* holy Purpoſes. Or if thou haſt otherwiſe appointed, accept of them graciouſly, and diſpoſe *him* to return back *his* Spirit willingly unto thee who gaveſt it; and with great Humility and deep Senſe of *his* own Undeſervings, to expect thy Mercy declared in Chriſt Jeſus, who hath ſo highly merited of thee. Fix *his* Mind ſtedfaſtly upon him, who hath led the Way through the Grave unto Heaven, that *he* may not be affrighted with the Approaches of Death; but looking beyond it to that high and holy Place where the Lord Jeſus is, *he* may rejoice in Hope of thy eternal Glory.

And give every one of us in our beſt Eſtate of Health, to conſider perpetually how frail and weak we are, that ſo we may not abuſe ourſelves by an intemperate Uſe of any of the Pleaſures of Senſe, nor load our Minds with the Cares of this Life, nor ſpend our Days in a vain Purſuit of the Honour and Glory of this World, but may *paſs all the Time of our ſojourning here in Fear*[1]; and live ſo *ſoberly, righteouſly, and godly, in this preſent World*[m], as becomes thoſe who expect ſhortly to give an

[1] 2 Pet. i. 17. [m] Tit. ii. 12.

Account to thee, who wilt judge all Men according to their Work. Hear us, O Lord, we moſt humbly beſeech thee, through Chriſt Jeſus, our merciful and compaſſionate High-Prieſt, who ſits at thy Right Hand, and lives for ever, to make Interceſſion for us. In whoſe Name we continue to recommend ourſelves and Friends, and all thy People to thee, as he hath taught us, ſaying,

Our Father, &c.

A Shorter.

WE proſtrate ourſelves before thee, O Lord of Heaven and Earth, acknowledging that we are but Duſt and Aſhes at the beſt, and have made ourſelves ſinful Duſt and Aſhes, utterly unworthy to ſpeak unto thee, either for ourſelves or for others. We moſt humbly and earneſtly beg thy gracious Pardon, and beſeech thee, for Jeſus Chriſt his Sake, to accept of our unfeigned Sorrow for what is paſt, and of our ſincere Purpoſes, by thy gracious Aſſiſtance, (which we know thou wilt not deny us) to live more ſoberly, righteouſly, and godly for the Time to come.

More particularly we implore thy Grace and Favour towards this thy ſick Servant, in whom we ſee how weak and frail we all are. Work in

in [a] *him* a true and hearty Repentance for all the Sins *he* hath committed in Thought, Word, or Deed, againſt thy Divine Majeſty. Give *him* a lively and ſtedfaſt Faith in thy Son Jeſus, who died for our Offences, and was raiſed again for our Juſtification. Fill *him* with a reviving Hope of that immortal Life which he hath purchaſed and promiſed; and with a powerful Senſe of thy Fatherly Love to *him*, and tender Care over *him* in the moſt afflicted Condition. Let *him* feel thou loveſt *him*, by thy heavenly Supports and Comforts vouchſafed to *him* from above, and by beſtowing on *him* perfect Patience and abſolute Submiſſion to thee, during this Sickneſs.

We know there is nothing impoſſible with thee, but that if thou wilt, thou canſt raiſe *him* up, and grant *him* a longer Continuance in this World. O that it may be thy gracious Pleaſure to reſtore *him* to us; May it pleaſe thee to ſave *him* and deliver *him*, for thy Goodneſs Sake, O Lord. Bleſs all the Means that are uſed for *his* Preſervation, and make them effectual. Rebuke *his* Diſeaſe by thy all-powerful Word, and command it to leave *him*. And, in the mean Time, help *him* meekly to reſign *himſelf* to thy Wiſdom, and humbly to confide in thy Loving-kindneſs, and quietly to wait upon thee, for Eaſe and Refreſhment at preſent, and for perfect Health and Strength at laſt. Which we earneſtly beſeech thee, in thy

[a] *Or her.*

good Time, to beſtow upon *him*, for the Sake of him who is the *Reſurrection and the Life*, the Healer and Repairer of our decayed Nature, the Saviour both of our Soul and Body, our compaſſionate Interceſſor with thee, who can have a Feeling of all our Infirmities and Miſeries, and we believe is always ready to ſuccour thoſe who, in all their Troubles, make him their Refuge; to whom with thee, O Father Almighty, in the Unity of the ſame eternal Spirit, be all Honour and Glory, Thankſgiving and Praiſe, Submiſſion and Reverence, Love and Obſervance, chearful Service and hearty Obedience, both now and for evermore. *Amen.*

A Prayer to be ſaid by the Family, or Friends, when a Sickneſs continues long.

BEhold, O Lord, thy poor unworthy Servants, who here moſt humbly bow themſelves unto thee, acknowledging that we deſerve not to live, nor to have the leaſt Regard from thee in our Diſtreſs, whom we ſo much neglected when we enjoyed our Hearts Deſire. Be merciful unto us, O Lord, be merciful unto us, for the Sake of him who ſhed his own moſt precious Blood for the Salvation of returning Sinners. We come unto thee with ſorrowful Hearts, bewailing our fooliſh Wanderings

derings from thee, with ſincere Love, vowing more faithful Obedience hereafter to thee.

Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, that we have ſuch good Hope thou wilt not caſt us off, but reſtore us again into thy Grace and Favour. It encourages us to hope in thee alſo for this thy ſick Servant, here lying under thy Hand in great Weakneſs of Body. Look graciouſly upon *him* (or *her*) O Lord, and *now that* his *outward Man is much decayed*, *ſtrengthen* him, *we beſeech thee*, *ſo much the more*, *by the Grace of thy holy Spirit*, *in* his *inward Man*. Give *him* unfeigned Repentance for all the Errors of *his* Life paſt; a ſtedfaſt Faith in thy Son Jeſus; a comfortable Aſſurance of the Truth of all his precious Promiſes; a lively Hope of that immortal Bliſs, in which he reigns for evermore; and a ſtrong Senſe of thy Fatherly love to *him*, and Care over *him*, under this ſore and grievous Affliction, which may make *him heartily* love thee, and entirely confide in thee, and abſolutely reſign both Soul and Body to thy wiſe Diſpoſal.

We know there is nothing too hard for thee; but that, if thou wilt, thou canſt bring *him* up, even from the Gates of Death, and grant *him* a longer Continuance among us. May it be thy good Pleaſure, O moſt gracious God, ſtill to continue *him*. Spare *him*, O Lord, and deliver *him* alſo ſpeedily from this Miſery, under which he hath ſo long groaned. Bleſs all the Means that are uſed for *his* Recovery, and for the Support of his Spirits; and give him Refreſhment

freſhment during this tedious Sickneſs. Releaſe *him* from his Pain, or grant *him* ſome Eaſe; or elſe increaſe and ſtrengthen *his* Patience. Help *him*, in Remembrance of thy paſt Loving kindneſs, to truſt in thy Goodneſs, and ſubmit to thy Wiſdom, and bear, with an equal Mind, what thou thinkeſt fit to lay upon *him*; that *he*, approving *himſelf* to thee, in theſe and all other Virtues, whilſt thou trieſt *him* by ſo ſore an Affliction, may ſay at the laſt, It was good for me that I was in Trouble.

Unto thy infinite Mercies we recommend *him*, and to the compaſſionate Kindneſs of our Lord Jeſus, who, we hope, will hear all the Prayers of *his* Friends for *him* every where, and ſend his good Spirit to be *his* Comforter, and his good Angels to be *his* Guardians; and direct thoſe who are to adviſe and preſcribe the Means of *his* Reſtoration, and bring *him* to praiſe thee again in the Aſſemblies of thy Saints on Earth; or, if thou art otherwiſe diſpoſed in thy wiſe Counſels, to praiſe thee in the great Aſſemblies of Saints and Angels in Heaven, through Jeſus Chriſt, our Lord and only Saviour; to whom with thee and thy holy Spirit, be all Praiſe, Love, and Obedience, World without End. *Amen.*

A Prayer

A Prayer to be ſaid by the Family, or Friends, when the ſick Perſon wants Sleep.

ADored be thy Love, thy wonderful Love, O moſt gracious God, who haſt ſo many Ways expreſſed thy Bounty towards us. Thy Mercies in Chriſt Jeſus ſurpaſs all our Thoughts: Nor are we able to number all the other Bleſſings thou haſt beſtowed on us. How much do we owe thee, for the quiet Sleep of but one Night! We ſee in this thy poor afflicted Servant, how much we ought to thank thee for this ſingle Bleſſing; that our Eyes, when we would cloſe them, are not held waking.

Pardon, good Lord, our foul Ingratitude for this, and all the reſt of thy undeſerved Mercies: And be pleaſed graciouſly alſo to viſit • *him* who ſtill languiſhes on *his* ſick Bed, looking up to thee, from whom cometh our Help. Renew *his* waſted Spirits with comfortable Sleep; compoſe *him* to a ſweet and undiſturbed Reſt; refreſh *him* thereby ſo ſenſibly, that *he* may be reſtored to ſuch a Degree of Strength, as may make *him* able, in ſome meaſure, affectionately to acknowledge thy Goodneſs, when thou haſt dealt ſo bountifully with *him*.

Or if thou delayeſt to beſtow that Bleſſing on *him*, O God, that in the Multitude of *his* Thoughts within *him*, thy Comforts may delight *his* Soul. If *he* be ſtill toſſed upon a

• *Or her.*

wearifome

wearisome Bed, without any Rest, O that *his* Mind may rest and repose itself in the Bosom of thy dearest Love, and may feel the most sensible Consolations from Heaven, not only quieting, but greatly rejoicing *his* Heart. Preserve the Use of *his* Understanding, and let the Enemy have no Advantage of *him*; but make *him* able to say, *I will wait patiently for the Lord, till he incline his Ear unto me, and hear my Cry*[p].

O *hear* his *Prayer*, O Lord, *and give Ear unto* his *Cry*. O *spare* him, *that he may recover Strength before he go hence, and be no more. Amen*[q], for Jesus Christ his Sake. *Amen.*

A Prayer to be said by the Family, or Friends, when the sick Person grows light-headed.

O Lord, look down from Heaven, in much Pity and Compassion, upon this thy afflicted Servant, who is not able now to look up unto thee. The sadder [r] *his* Condition grows, the fitter Object it is of thy infinite tender Mercies; who accepteſt, we believe, of the Submission *he* made of *himself*, in the Beginning of *his* Sickness to thy Almighty Wisdom and Goodness: And therefore, since it is thy Pleasure to suffer *his* Distemper to proceed to this dangerous Extremity, thou wilt no less graciously love *him*, and delight in *him*, than if

[p] Psal. xl. 1. [q] Psal. xxxix. 12, 13. [r] *Or her.*

he

he could ſtill give up *himſelf* to thy bleſſed Will.

And hear, O moſt merciful Father, our Prayers in *his* Behalf. Excite them alſo to a greater Ardency than ever for *him*, now that *he* can no longer commend *himſelf* to thy Mercies. Pardon, good Lord, pardon all *his* Sins. Impute not to *him* any of *his* former Follies. Lay not to *his* Charge *his* not improving or any Ways miſuſing of *his* Reaſon and Underſtanding; which we earneſtly, but humbly intreat thee to reſtore to *him*, together with ſuch a Meaſure of thy divine Grace, as may quicken and aſſiſt *him*, then to employ *his* Thoughts to the beſt Purpoſes; eſpecially in meditating of thy Mercies, in ſtudying thy Praiſe, and in exhorting all others to love thee, and truſt thee, and ſincerely obey thee.

And while *he* remains thus deprived of *his* Reaſon, be pleaſed to quiet and compoſe *his* Spirits, or to prevent all furious Motions there, or quickly to abate ſuch violent Paſſions, if any ariſe. For which End, be pleaſed to remove all frightful Imaginations far from *him*, and ſuffer not the evil one to approach *him*: Preſerve *him* from doing any Harm, either to *himſelf*, or to any other: *Forſake* him *not*, *O Lord*; *O our God, be not far from* him. *Make haſte to help* him, *O Lord, our Salvation*[s]. He *is poor and needy, but the Lord thinketh on* him[t]. *Thou art our Helper and Deliverer, make no tar-*

[s] Pſal. xxxviii. 21, 22. [t] Pſal. xl. 17.

rying

rying, O our God. So will we all give Thanks unto thee for ever. We will be ſtill praiſing thee, and ſhewing forth thy Loving-kindneſs to thoſe who ſucceed us. That they may ſet their Hope in thee our God, and not forget thy Works, but keep thy Commandments[u].

Amen, Amen; make us all ſo happy, for Jeſus Chriſt his Sake. *Amen.*

A Prayer to be ſaid by any pious Perſon, for a ſick Neighbour.

O Moſt gracious God, who, by thy Son Jeſus, haſt knit us all together in one Body, that we ſhould love one another; and *whether one Member ſuffer, all the Members ſhould ſuffer with it; or one Member be honoured, all the reſt ſhould rejoice with it:* I humbly implore thy tender Mercies towards *N. N.* of whoſe afflicted Condition I deſire to have a compaſſionate Senſe or Feeling. Look graciouſly upon [x] *him*, O Lord, and viſit *him* with thy Salvation. Vouchſafe *him* ſuch Conſolations from above, as I ſhould deſire for myſelf, were I in *his* Eſtate. Give *him* a true penitent Heart for all the Offences *he* hath at any Time committed; together with a lively Faith in thy Son Jeſus, who came into the World to ſave Sinners. Give *him* the Comfort of thy holy Hope,

[u] Pſal. lxxviii. 7. lxxix. 13. [x] *Or her.*

that

that thou accepteſt *his* Repentance and faithful Devotion to thee. Support *him*, by this Hope, under all *his* Pain, and enable *him* patiently to ſubmit to thy Fatherly Correction. Send *him* Help now in Time of Need, both for *his* Soul and for *his* Body. Bleſs the Means of *his* Recovery: And if it be thy good Pleaſure, reſtore him ſpeedily to *his* former Health, together with a ſerious Reſolution in *his* Heart, to ſerve thee more zealouſly all *his* Days.

Or if thou haſt otherwiſe reſolved in thy wiſe Counſels, deliver *him* from the Fear of Death; aſſiſt *him* in *his* laſt Agony; give him an eaſy and chearful Paſſage out of this Life; and ſend thy holy Angels to conduct *him* into Reſt and Peace with our Lord Jeſus; to whom with thee, O Father of Mercies, and thy holy Spirit, be given all Honour, Glory, and Praiſe, by all Creatures in Heaven and Earth, from this Time forth and for evermore. *Amen.*

A Prayer when a Perſon is giving up the Ghoſt.

If the Diſeaſe proceed to ſuch an Extremity, that in all Appearance the Soul is ready to depart, there is a Commendatory Prayer *appointed in the public Offices of Devotion, to be ſaid by the Miniſter, whoſe Aſſiſtance then ſure will be deſired. And beſides, the ſick Perſon himſelf, as*

long

long as he is able, may thus recommend his Soul unto Almighty God.

I Reſign my Spirit, O God, moſt chearfully into thy Hands, hoping to find Mercy with thee, through Chriſt Jeſus. I know no other Name under Heaven, whereby I may be ſaved, but thine alone, O bleſſed Jeſus, who *waſt dead, and art alive again, and liveth for evermore* [y]. I come unto thee, O Lord, confiding in thy moſt precious Promiſes (which I believe are *faithful* and *true* as thou art) for Pardon and for immortal Life.

Accept, I beſeech thee, of my moſt hearty Thanks, for all thy Mercies to me from the Beginning of my Life to this Moment. Paſs by all my Ingratitude and Diſobedience: Receive me into the Company of the *Spirits of juſt Men made perfect*, to give thee Thanks for ever.

And as I deſire to find Mercy with thee, ſo I forgive all my Enemies, beſeeching thee likewiſe to forgive them, and to bleſs and comfort all my Friends, and to make thy whole Church glorious; and to bring us all at laſt to live together in everlaſting Love and Joy, through Chriſt Jeſus. *Amen.*

[y] Rev. i. 18.

An

An Act of Reſignation, when a Friend is dead.

I Adore thee, O Lord, I bow my very Will, with my whole Soul, to thee, *whoſe Judgments are unſearchable, and whoſe Ways are paſt finding out.* I believe thou intendedſt to do me Good, even by denying my earneſt and ſo often repeated Deſires. *I will bleſs the Lord* therefore *at all Times. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, bleſſed be the Name of the Lord.*

I have received innumerable good Things from thy Hands, O Father of Mercies, why ſhould I not receive thoſe that are evil? *The Cup which my Father hath given me, ſhall I not drink it?* I humbly take it from thy Hands, O my God, and ſubmit to thy wiſe Diſpenſation. I return to thee back again that which thou ſo lovingly beſtowedſt upon me, with my moſt hearty Thanks for lending me the Enjoyment of it ſo long. Do but pardon all my Ingratitude, all the Omiſſions of my Duty, and whatſoever I have done contrary to it, I ſhall endeavour to *rejoice in thee always*, and ſtill to be praiſing thee under the ſharpeſt Chaſtiſements, which are leſs than I deſerve.

Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, that I am not without Hope of this gracious Pardon. Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, that thou haſt not taken away thy holy Spirit from me. Yea, bleſſed be that Goodneſs, that hath left me ſtill ſo many worldly Bleſſings, which many want, and have loſt

loſt their deareſt Relations too. It is of the Lord's Mercy, that Lovers, Friends, and Acquaintance, together with all other Comforts of this Life, are not quite gone away from me, and removed into Darkneſs. Bleſſed be God, that I am not groaning on a ſick Bed, and that I languiſh not under the moſt tedious Pains. [*Bleſſed be God, that I want not my daily Bread; that I am not oppreſſed with Debt; that I lie not in Priſon, or am not turned out of Doors, having no certain Dwelling-place.*] Yea, bleſſed be God, that all my Days have not been ſo miſerable as ſome few have been. Bleſſed be God, that the Days which I and * *he* (who hath now left me) ſpent together, were not all Bitterneſs and Sorrow, but were ſweetened by the Enjoyment of many, very many good Things.

O my Soul, never ceaſe to bleſs the Lord; *forget not all his Benefits.* Eſpecially his great Love, his exceeding great Love in Chriſt Jeſus, by whom he hath provided a Remedy for all our Griefs, and comforted us with the Hope of another, and better Life, where there is no Death, nor any Pain or Sorrow, but all Tears ſhall be wiped away from our Eyes.

To thee I fly, O bleſſed Jeſus, who art my beſt, and my eternal Friend; to thee, who knoweſt our Frame, and canſt have Compaſſion on our Infirmities; moſt humbly beſeeching thee to bear me up under this ſore Affliction,

* *Or ſhe.*

in

in a thankful Remembrance of all thy Mercies. Yea, draw up my Heart thereby more towards Heaven, where thou, my Life, art [where I hope my *Husband*, *Wife*, or *Friend* is] where I hope to be when thou shalt call me away from hence; there to sing thy Praises with incessant Joy, in the Company of all thy Saints, and of the holy Angels. *Amen*, *Amen*.

A Prayer when there is some Hope *of the Sick Man's* Recovery.

WE cast down ourselves before thee, O Father of Mercies, and God of all Comfort, to implore thy Grace and Favour towards this thy Servant, who still lies under thy Hand, in great Weakness of Body. We thank thee, O Lord, that [a] *he* is no weaker; but though *he* be brought very low, we have some Hope thou wilt raise *him* up again. Blessed be thy Goodness, that *he* is not gone down into Silence, and hath not made *his* Bed in the Dust. Blessed be thy Goodness.

O thou *Preserver of Men*, who hast begun to revive and quicken *him* again; go on to perfect that which belongs to *his* Cure, and forsake not the Work of thy own Hands. Repair all the Decays in *his* outward Man, that

[a] *Or she.*

his

his Mind may alſo recover its former Strength, to praiſe and bleſs thy Goodneſs to *him*.

And viſit *him*, in the mean Time, with thy heavenly Conſolation from above. Fill *him* with comfortable Thoughts of thy Love, and of thy tender, compaſſionate Care which our Lord Jeſus takes of all his afflicted Servants. Endue *him* ſtill with more patient Submiſſion to thy Will: And enable *him* both quietly to wait upon thee, till thou haſt finiſhed *his* Recovery; and alſo to continue ſtedfaſtly reſolved to ſerve thee more faithfully with *his* reſtored Strength, through Jeſus Chriſt, our bleſſed Saviour and Redeemer: By whom, and with whom, in the Unity of the Holy Ghoſt, all Honour and Glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, World without End. *Amen.*

A Thankſgiving for the Beginning *of a* Recovery.

O Moſt great and mighty Lord, *who killeſt and makeſt alive, who bringeſt down to the Grave, and bringeſt up again*[b]; we thy poor Creatures (moſt infinitely obliged to be thy faithful Servants) who have ſo often ſorrowfully caſt down ourſelves before thee, to implore thy Mercy towards this our afflicted Friend, do now moſt joyfully fall upon our Knees, to thank thee with one accord for the gracious

[b] 1 Sam. ii. 8.

Audience

Audience thou haſt given to our Prayers; deſiring to have our Hearts raiſed to as great a Degree of fervent Love to thee, as they were of paſſionate Deſires that thou wouldeſt ſpare *him* from going down to the Grave.

Bleſſed be God, who *hath not turned away our Prayer, nor his Mercy from us.* Bleſſed be God, for preſerving our dear Friend, who is ſtill in the Land of the Living. Bleſſed be thy wonderful Goodneſs (which we will never forget) who haſt, in ſome Meaſure, turned our Heavineſs into Joy, and our Mourning into Gladneſs. Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, who haſt begun to lift *him* up from the Gates of Death, and reſtored *him* to ſome Degree of Health. Yea, bleſſed be that Goodneſs, which did not forſake *him* in *his* Sickneſs, but viſited *him* with Comforts from above; ſupported *him* in Patience and Submiſſion to thy Will; ſent *him* ſeaſonable Relief, and proſpered the Endeavours of thoſe who conſulted for his Preſervation.

We hope we ſhall never ceaſe to ſpeak of thy Loving-kindneſs, but be ſtill praiſing thee, whoſe Mercy endures for ever; who we hope alſo will proceed to conſummate thy Mercy towards *him*, by raiſing *him* up to praiſe thee together with us, in perfect Health of Body, and Vigour of Mind, and Chearfulneſs of Spirit.

For which End, be pleaſed ſtill to direct and bleſs the Medicines that are preſcribed for the perfecting of *his* Cure. Succeed them, O Lord, that

that he may be able at laſt to go into thy Houſe, to offer thee an Oblation with great Gladneſs, and to bleſs thy holy Name for thy wonderful Works towards him, and towards the Children of Men, through Jeſus Chriſt, our bleſſed Saviour, to whom with thee, and the Holy Ghoſt, be all Honour and Glory, World without End. *Amen.*

A Thankſgiving after Recovery from a Sickneſs, *to be ſaid by the Perſon himſelf, who is reſtored to Health.*

If God be pleaſed to reſtore the ſick Perſon to a State of Health, public Thankſgiving ought to be rendered to Almighty God for it. And together with the Sacrifice of Praiſe, which is the Fruit of *our* Lips (*Heb.* xiii. 15, 16.) *he ought not to* forget to do Good, and to communicate *to them that are in Miſery*; for with ſuch Sacrifices God is well pleaſed. *And to preſerve a grateful Remembrance of God's* Mercy, *here follows a Form of Thankſgiving to be uſed in private by himſelf, and by his Friends, that are concerned in his Recovery.*

O God, the Fountain of Life, and of all Good, who art continually more and more pouring forth thy Benefits upon us, I thy poor Creature, whoſe Life thou haſt mercifully

ſpared,

ſpared, when I deſerved to be cut off, proſtrate myſelf in an humble Senſe of thy Divine Goodneſs, to render thee my moſt hearty Thanks, and to renew my Vows, which I made in the Day of my Diſtreſs.

Bleſs the Lord, O my Soul, and all that is within me bleſs his holy Name. Bleſs the Lord, O my Soul, and forget not all his Benefits: Who forgiveth all thine Iniquities; who healeth all thy Diſeaſes; who redeemed thy Life from Deſtruction; who crowneth thee with Loving-kindneſs and tender Mercies; who ſatisfieth thy Mouth with good Things, ſo that thy Youth is renewed like the Eagles. The Lord is merciful and gracious, ſlow to Anger, and plenteous in Mercy. He will not always chide, neither will he keep his Anger for ever. He hath not dealt with me after my Sins, nor rewarded me according to my Iniquities. But as far as the Eaſt is from the Weſt, ſo far hath he removed my Tranſgreſſions from me. O taſte and ſee, my Soul, how gracious the Lord is; bleſſed is the Man that truſteth in him. I ſhall not die, but live, and declare the Works of the Lord. The Lord hath chaſtened me ſore, but he hath not given me over unto Death[c].

I will give Thanks therefore *unto the Lord with my whole Heart; ſecretly among the Faithful, and in the Congregation.* I can do no leſs than dedicate this new Life, which thou haſt beſtowed upon me, entirely to thy Service, reſolving to

[c] Pſal. ciii. 1, 2, 3, &c. xxxiv. 8. cxviii. 17, 18. cxi. 1.

employ more vigorouſly all thoſe Powers of Soul and Body which are ſo graciouſly reſtored unto me, unto thy Honour and Glory.

For which End, I moſt earneſtly deſire to have a lively Senſe preſerved in my Mind, of thoſe Things which were moſt powerful to move my Heart towards thee in the Time of my Sickneſs. O that this World may ever appear unto me, as it was then repreſented to my Mind! That I may never ſet my Heart too much upon theſe periſhing Enjoyments, and ſhort Satisfactions, nor ever neglect thee, whoſe Favour and Grace I then ſought ſo earneſtly, as my chiefeſt Good; but remembering how little Comfort I could find in any Thing here, what a Joy it was to have any Hope in thee the eternal God; and how that *in my beſt Eſtate I am but altogether Vanity*, I may moſt ſeriouſly apply myſelf *to work out my Salvation with Fear and Trembling*, and give all Diligence to ſettle a ſtedfaſt Hope in thee, that never may be ſhaken.

Make me often to remember, that *my Days are but like a Shadow that declineth, and that I wither like the Graſs. But thou, O Lord, ſhalt endure for ever; for thou art the ſame, and thy Years ſhall have* [illegible]. That ſo I may neither ſeek my Happineſs in this dying Life, but in thy endleſs Love and Favour; nor *be ſlothful in Buſineſs, but fervent in Spirit, ſerving the Lord*[e].

[d] Pſal. cii. 11, 12, 27. [e] Rom. xii. 11.

Bleſſed

Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, that I ſee theſe holy Thoughts and Deſires ſtill remaining in me. Excite me, I humbly beſeech thee, continually to renew them, that no Day may paſs without ſerious Reflections upon thy patient and long-ſuffering Kindneſs towards me; upon the Shortneſs of this Life; the Uncertainty of all earthly Comforts, and the Happineſs of having a good Hope in thee, by ſtedfaſt Continuance in Well-doing. And let thoſe Thoughts be ſo deeply imprinted in my Heart, that my Affections may be weaned thereby from all Things here below, and ſet on Things above, where Chriſt is at thy right Hand.

O that I may deſire and covet thoſe heavenly Things for my Portion, more than I do to eat and drink, or enjoy any other Pleaſure of this Life. Make me to rejoice in them more than in a whole World of other Comforts, and to ſtand in greater Fear of loſing them than I do to die, or endure any Miſery. Preſerve in me, good Lord, ſuch a ſober and conſiderate Diſpoſition of Mind, that I may never be proud, who am, I ſee, but Duſt and Aſhes; nor confident of my own Strength and Power, which is but Weakneſs and Vanity; not diſtruſtful of thee, who art ſo gracious and merciful, as well as mighty to ſave. Suffer me not to ſink under any Diſcouragements, who have the everlaſting Arms under me, the Wiſdom of Heaven to direct and guide me, and the infinite

Treasures of Goodness to supply all my Necessities.

And more particularly I beseech thee, to give me Grace by my late Confinement, Weakness, Dulness, want of Appetite and Rest, to learn to value very highly the Benefits of Liberty, Strength, and Quickness of all my Senses; and to bless thee more than ever I have done, for the constant Refreshments of my Food in the Day, and of undisturbed Sleep in the Night, together with the rest of the Pleasures of Life, to which thou hast restored me with my Health.

Make me perfectly contented in any State and Condition, whilst I enjoy so great a Blessing as that which comprehends so many others in it. And when thou art pleased to take it again away from me, O that I may be able to be contented then also, in a Remembrance of all thy past Kindnesses to me, and of a well-spent Life, and careful Improvement of this renewed Health; and in Hope of thy continued Mercies to me in Christ Jesus, even to eternal Life. To which I humbly beseech thee to bring me by an unchangeable Love and Obedience to thee in all the Changes and Alterations of this mortal Life, for his Sake who loved me, and gave himself for me; to whom, with thyself, in the Unity of the same Spirit, be Glory everlasting. *Amen.*

A Thankſgiving to be ſaid by the Family.

O Moſt holy, great, and glorious God, the Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth, who upholdeſt all Things by the Word of thy Power, and governeſt the whole World with admirable Wiſdom, Juſtice, and Mercy; thou deſerveſt the higheſt Acknowledgments of all thy Creatures. The Praiſes of Angels are not worthy of thee; nor any of their Thoughts equal to thy infinite Majeſty. What can we, vile Creatures, then ſpeak of thee? or what Thoughts ſhall we frame of thy Perfections? eſpecially of the tranſcendent Love, which hath moved thee, in much Compaſſion, to conſider our Weakneſſes, and help our Infirmities. Thou haſt taught us, by our Lord Jeſus, what we ſhould think of thee; having vouchſafed to dwell among us, and make thyſelf viſible unto us, not only as the moſt wiſe and mighty, but as the moſt holy, righteous, gracious, and merciful Lord, who deſigneſt the greateſt Bleſſings to us.

But now that we ſee thee, we have the greateſt Reaſon to abhor ourſelves in Duſt and Aſhes, when we conſider how unlike we are unto thee in thoſe excellent Qualities, wherein thou haſt made thyſelf known unto us; and how unthankful we have been unto thy Divine Goodneſs, which has ſo ſtrangely condeſcended unto us, who are unworthy of the leaſt Regard

from thee. And yet ſuch is thy tender Mercy and Pity towards us, that thou haſt declared thyſelf willing to entertain even the greateſt Sinners into thy Favour, by making them better. We ourſelves have received innumerable Tokens of thy great Clemency, Patience, and Forbearance. And how lately thou haſt been pleaſed to give us a new Inſtance of thy Loving-kindneſs, and of thy Deſire to win our Hearts unto thee, in reſcuing one of us from going down into the Grave, and reſtoring *him* to Health and Strength again.

The Living, the Living, O Lord, *ſhall praiſe thee, as we do this Day*: Yea, *we will bleſs thy Name as long as we live, and ſing Praiſe unto thee, as long as we have any Being. We will praiſe thee, O Lord our God, with all our Heart, and glorify thy Name for evermore. For great is thy Mercy towards us*; *and thou haſt delivered* the Soul of thy *Servant from the loweſt Hell. The Lord is our Strength, and our Song, and is become our Salvation. The Voice of Joy and Health is in our Dwellings*; *the Right Hand of the Lord bringeth mighty Things to paſs*[f].

O that there were ſuch an Heart in every one of us, as to ſtudy ſeriouſly to know thee better; to meditate continually on thy Benefits, both to our Souls and Bodies; to love thee entirely, and to endeavour to be like unto thee, which is the Deſign of thy Goodneſs towards

[f] Iſ. xxxviii. 19. Pſal. civ. 33. lxxxvi. 12, 13. cxviii. 14, 15.

us.

us. Empty our Hearts of all other Things; and make Room for thyſelf to dwell there in Wiſdom, Righteouſneſs, and true Holineſs.

Diſpoſe every one of us to follow Jeſus Chriſt, our Maſter, *in Lowlineſs, Patience, and Charity; and to be ordered by the Governance of his Holy Spirit, ſeeking always his Glory, and ſerving him duly in our Vocation with Thankſgiving*[s]. Help us ſo to employ our Time in our Health, Proſperity, and Pleaſure, that we may have nothing to trouble us in the Time of Sickneſs, Affliction, and Sorrow; but we may quietly and chearfully bear what thou layeſt upon us, *looking unto Jeſus, who for the Joy that was ſet before him, endured the Croſs, deſpiſing the Shame, and is ſet down at thy Right Hand.*

O bleſſed Lord, deny us not the conſtant Aſſiſtance of the Holy Ghoſt, to cheriſh, confirm, and ſtrengthen our holy Reſolutions; to ſucceed our pious Endeavours; to give us a quick Senſe of all thy Mercies, and a lively Remembrance of all thy Fatherly Chaſtiſements; whereby we may be more and more excited to Diligence, Watchfulneſs, and Zeal in thy Service. Preſerve us from a ſlothful and negligent Spirit; and awaken in us ſuch a Senſe of thee, and of our Duty to thee, that we may ſearch after thy Will diligently, and believe it heartily, and practiſe it carefully, and watch againſt all Temptations heedfully, and pray fervently and frequently, and ponder ſe-

[s] Common-Prayer Book, in the Commination.

rioufly and thoroughly all the Inſtructions we have received from thee, and our many and great Obligations to thee.

O that it may be our Choice to attend on thee; and that our Hearts may be ſtill with thee, when our Neceſſities require our Attendance on other Things: That ſo we may not be too deeply engaged in the Affairs of this Life, to the Prejudice of the eternal Life of our Souls, but we may go on, to make it our great Buſineſs to be truly godly, according to the Pattern which our Lord hath left us, till we be fit to be lifted up to that high and holy Place, where we believe he is, and ſee the Glory which thou haſt given him.

Now to him that *holdeth our Soul in Life, and ſuffereth not our Feet to be moved*; to the *God of our Salvation, to whom belong the Iſſues from Death, who hath turned our Heavineſs into Joy, and put off our Mourning, and girded us with Gladneſs*; to him *that doth wondrous Things, the only wiſe God, our Saviour, be Glory and Majeſty, Dominion and Power, both now and ever*[h]. Amen.

A Parent's Prayer *for a* Sick Child.

O Lord, by whoſe infinite Goodneſs I was brought into this World, and by whoſe indulgent Care I have been continued here unto

[h] Pſal. lxvi. 9. lxviii. 20. xxx. 11. Jude 25.

this

this Time, in the Enjoyment of a great many Bleſſings, of the leaſt of which I am unworthy; I thank thee, that to all other Comforts of this Life, thou haſt added the Gift of this Child, whom thou haſt preſerved in its Birth, and ever ſince, by a marvellous Providence. I am ſenſible that all I have is thine, and that I am but intruſted with this, as with all other good Things, which I muſt return to thee whenſoever thou pleaſeſt.

Lord, aſſiſt me with the Grace of thy Holy Spirit (which I know thou art more ready to give than any other Bleſſing) that I may reſign this Child to thee, if thou art pleaſed now to call for it, with an humble, contented, patient, and thankful Mind, believing thou knoweſt better what is good for me than I do myſelf, and will certainly recompenſe ſuch meek and quiet Submiſſion to thee, with as good, or better Enjoyments than thoſe thou taſteſt away. But if thou thinkeſt good ſtill to prolong its Days, and continue it with me (which I moſt humbly beg of thy Divine Majeſty) behold, O Lord, the unfeigned Purpoſe of my Heart, faithfully to diſcharge my Truſt, and to bring it up in the Fear and Nurture of our Lord.

Endue me with Principles of true Wiſdom and Prudence, that I may educate it aright. Help me to give it a good Example; and to uſe all Diligence, that it may *ſerve its Generation according to thy Will*, and at laſt be returned back to thee, wiſe, and pure, and juſt, and

good, fit for the Company of the Bleſſed in endleſs Life. Unto thee, O Lord, I moſt heartily recommend both it and myſelf, whoſe Wiſdom knows where it is beſt to place thy Creatures, whether in this, or in the other World; and whoſe Goodneſs deſigns to make us happy in both. To thee, the only wiſe and good God, be all Praiſe, Honour, Glory, and Thankſgiving, with Fear and Reverence, Love, and chearful Obedience, both now and eternally. *Amen.*

Here follow Prayers and Thankſgivings on ſundry other Occaſions, which we may meet withal in the Courſe of our Life: In which it will be fit particulary to acknowledge God, and implore his Mercy towards us. And let it be remembered, as I ſaid before, that it is a Part of Chriſtian Piety, to take care that Alms and Acts of Charity to others, accompany our Addreſſes to God. They are then certainly moſt ſeaſonable, when we deſire ſpecial Favours from him, or return Thanks for them. And hereby (*as old* Tobias *ſaid*, iv. 9, 11.) we lay up a good Treaſure for ourſelves againſt the Day of Neceſſity: For Alms is a good Gift unto all them that give it in the Sight of the moſt High.

A Prayer

A Prayer to be used by one that is going a long Journey.

O God, who art alike present unto all Places, *who preservest Man and Beast; for thou art good to all, and thy tender Mercies are over all thy Works. All thy Works shall praise thee, O Lord, and thy Saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the Glory of thy Kingdom, and declare thy Power*[1].

Blessed be thy Name for the Knowledge thou hast given me, of thy wise and merciful Providence encompassing all Creatures: And more particularly, I rejoice in the Revelation which thou hast made of thy Fatherly Love and Care over us the Children of Men, in Christ Jesus; *who makes his Angels ministring Spirits for them that are Heirs of Salvation*[2], In a hearty Belief of thy Holy Gospel, and a sincere Resolution to be obedient unto it, in hope of that eternal Life, I commit both my Soul and Body to thy most gracious Protection, who *art the Defender of all them that put their Trust in thee.*

I trust thee, O Lord, with myself, and all belonging to me; I entirely depend on thy Goodness, to be with me, and prosper me in the Way that I go. Give thy good Angels Charge of me; and especially accompany me

[1] Psal. xxxvi. 6. cxlv. 9, 10. [2] Heb. i. *ult.* Psal. xviii. 30.

with

with the Preſence of thy Holy Spirit, to preſerve my Soul in Safety from all evil Thoughts, Deſires, or Paſſions that may any Way betray me, in Word or Deed, to offend thy Divine Majeſty. Deliver me from the Danger of any evil Company into which I may fall; that I may not frame myſelf to the Humours of profane Perſons, but, by a pious and diſcreet Behaviour, rather reprove them. And give me Grace thankfully to embrace the Company of thoſe who are good, if I be bleſſed with it, that I may rejoice in their Society, and improve it to my Increaſe in Wiſdom and pious Affections towards thee.

Bleſs this Habitation alſo, which I leave, and all remaining in it; that at what Diſtance ſoever we be one from another, we may all live and walk in the ſame Spirit of Faith, and Love, and Holineſs. Give us an happy Meeting together again in this Place, if it be thy good Will and Pleaſure, to pay thee the Vows which I make of greater Care and Diligence in thy Service, and greater Charity towards all my Neighbours. Howſoever, in the End of our Pilgrimage, bring us all together into that bleſſed Reſt which thou haſt prepared for thy People, after all their Travels and Labours, through thy Mercy in Chriſt Jeſus; to which I commend myſelf and all mine, both now and for ever. *Amen.*

A ſhort

A ſhort Prayer in one's Inn, or at the End of a Journey.

BLeſſed be thy Goodneſs, O Lord, my Creator and continual Preſerver, by which I have been led in Safety to this Place, and am not only alive, but ſound and unmaimed. To thee, O God, will I ſing and give Praiſe, who haſt *dealt ſo bountifully with me. For thou haſt delivered my Soul from Death, mine Eyes from Tears, and my Feet from falling. I love the Lord, becauſe he hath heard my Voice and my Supplications. Becauſe he hath inclined his Ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. I will walk alſo with a perfect Heart before the Lord, who is my Shield, and my exceeding great Reward*[1].

Preſerve in me, I beſeech thee, a pious Remembrance of all thy Mercies, and of all thoſe holy Reſolutions which they excite in me. Take me ſtill into thy Almighty Protection. Continue me in thy Fear, and Love, and faithful Obedience, that, having finiſhed this Journey in Peace, I may return to the Place from whence I came, full of thankful Affections to thee, and zealouſly diſpoſed to perform my Vows, in a careful Diſcharge of all the Duties which my Place and Relations require of me. And enable me, good Lord, ever to perform

[1] Pſal. cxvi. 1, 7, 8, 9. Gen. xv. 1. xvii. 1.

them

them with Uprightneſs of Heart and Good-will, as becomes the Servant of Chriſt Jeſus.

To the ſame merciful Providence which hath watched over me all this Day, I commend myſelf, and all my Relations and Friends every where, this Night, beſeeching thee to awaken in me in the Morning, the ſame Love and Thankfulneſs, and humble Confidence which I now find, and deſire ever to have, in my Heart towards thee, my gracious Father, Saviour, and Deliverer; to whom be Glory, Honour, and Praiſe everlaſting. *Amen.*

A Prayer in caſe of any Hurt from Thieves, or otherwiſe.

O Moſt merciful Father, for ſo I ought ever to acknowledge thee, without whom one of the ſmalleſt Creatures cannot fall to the Ground, and to whom we are of more Value than many of them[m]; I humbly and meekly ſubmit myſelf to this Croſs in my Way, which thou in thy Wiſdom haſt ſuffered to befal me. I know that thou art able to make even this, with all other Things, work together for my Good: And therefore I beſeech thee but graciouſly to pardon my Sins, which deſerve greater Puniſhment, and to preſerve my Soul ſtill in Safety from all Murmuring and Repining at

[m] Matt. x. 29.

thy

thy Providence, by a ſtedfaſt Faith and Truſt in thee, and an abſolute Reſignation to thy holy Will and Pleaſure, and I ſhall not ceaſe to bleſs thee, and to ſpeak good of thy Name.

Help me to learn by this to live in a conſtant Senſe of the Uncertainty of all worldly Hopes, to ſet my Affections more perfectly on unchangeable Enjoyments, and to place my Happineſs only in chearful Obedience, and contented Patience, in all Eſtates and Conditions of Life. I remember that we are all but Pilgrims and Strangers whilſt we are here; ſubject to many other Changes and Chances in this mortal Life: And therefore whatſoever I, or thoſe I have left at Home, may farther ſuffer before my Return, Lord, aſſiſt us all to take that patiently alſo; and as we have received ſo many good Things from thee, to receive likewiſe that which is evil, giving Thanks to thee, the Father of Mercies, who haſt given us ſuch a good Hope of perfect Security, Peace, and Joy in our heavenly Country, when we have done, and endured all thy Pleaſure. In the Expectation of which bleſſed State I will continually rejoice, praying thee to purify me more and more, that I may be prepared for it, and at laſt, by thy Mercy enter into it, to give thee eternal Praiſes. *Amen.*

A Prayer to be ſaid for a Friend on a Journey.

O God, whoſe Almighty Power, and wiſe Providence, and Omnipreſent Goodneſs, is the Security, Support, and Comfort of all thoſe that know thee, it is the higheſt Satisfaction of our Souls to have a lively Hope in thee of eternal Life in the other World, and to be perſuaded that thou loveſt us, and wilt take Care of us, and bleſs us, whilſt we continue here, and that nothing can befal us without the Knowledge and Conſent of thy infinite Goodneſs, which gives the moſt ſolid Peace and Repoſe unto our Spirits, in all the Alterations and Changes of this Life. I rejoice in the Belief, that I live in a World which is full of thee; that I am always under thy Eye, and have thee near unto me, as to obſerve me, ſo help, protect and defend me.

And I beſeech thee, fill the Mind of * *him* who is now gone from me, with the ſame Senſe of thee, that *he* may carry along with *him*, every where, this ſtedfaſt Faith and Hope in thee, as the Stay, the Reſt, and the Refreſhment of *his* Soul. How far ſoever *he* be from me, O that *he* may be nigh to thee in frequent ſerious Thoughts of thee, and hearty Love to thee, and perfect Truſt in thee, and a conſtant Diſpoſition of Mind and Will to do and be what thou pleaſeſt: That travelling under the

* *Or her.*

Shadow

Shadow of the Almighty, no Harm may come to *him*; but even thoſe Things which we account the greateſt Miſchiefs, if they ſhall betide *him*, may be humbly accepted by us all, with Fear and Reverence, and chearful Submiſſion to thee, as becomes thoſe who profeſs ourſelves thy Friends, as well as thy Servants.

No Thieves, Murderers, or other evil Perſons or Things, can approach *him*, I know, without thy Leave, who governeſt and overruleſt the Motions of every Creature at thy Pleaſure, to which we ever ought to ſubmit our own: But if thou thinkeſt good to reſtore *him* hither again untouched by any of them, Lord help us to be ſo much the more thankful to thee, who dealeſt with us according to our own Hearts Deſire. O that the Senſe of thy Goodneſs then, may ſo powerfully affect our Hearts, that we may be moved thereby to a greater Zeal and Freedom of Spirit in thy Service, and be the more forward to imitate thee in doing Good, and ſhewing Mercy to all Men. O that thy Benefits may never ſlip out of our Minds. O that the *Meditation of them may be ſweet* unto us; and we may learn thereby *to truſt in thee at all Times, and pour out our Hearts before thee; for thou art a Refuge for us.*

Now the merciful God give him *good Succeſs in all Things. The God which dwelleth in Hea-*

• Pſal. civ. 34. lxii. 8. Tob. iv. 16. vii. 12.

ven,

ven, proſper his *Journey, and the Angels of God keep* him *Company.* Amen[p].

A Thankſgiving after a ſafe Return Home.

IN an humble joyful Senſe of thy Fatherly Care and Providence over me, ever ſince I went from this Place (to which thou haſt brought me back in Peace and Safety) I caſt down myſelf at thy Feet, O Lord God of Heaven, praiſing thy Almighty Goodneſs, with an Heart full of Love and Devotion to thee: It is of thy Mercy alone that I am not conſumed, and becauſe thy Compaſſions fail not, that I am not groaning under Sickneſs, or Wounds and Bruiſes in my Body, nor ſighing for the Loſs of my Goods, either at Home or Abroad, is to be aſcribed to that tender Mercy which ſpreads itſelf over all thy Works, and hath been a Covering to me Night and Day, in every Place where I have been, from I know not how many Dangers. I thank thee alſo for letting me ſee the Faces of my Relations and Friends again, and that no Evil hath come nigh their Dwellings; but eſpecially for preſerving my Soul in Integrity and Uprightneſs before thee; and for delivering me from the Power of Temptations, and from wound-

[p] Theſe laſt Words may ſerve for a ſhort Ejaculation in *his* Behalf at any Time of the Day.

ing

ing my Conſcience, by any wilful Offence againſt thy Divine Majeſty.

It is too little to render to thee my Praiſes and Thankſgivings: I will pay thee my Vows wherein I ſtand engaged to thee, and here offer unto thee myſelf, Soul, and Body, to be made a more pure, perfect, and acceptable Sacrifice unto thee, through Chriſt Jeſus. Maintain, I beſeech thee, ſuch a lively and laſting Remembrance of thy Kindneſs in my Heart, as may both provoke me to Love and to good Works, and alſo ſtrengthen my Faith and Hope in thee, on all Occaſions, for the Time to come.

I ought not to forget, now that I mention thy late Deliverances, all the reſt of thy Mercies, which are ſo many, and ſo various, that, alas! we take little Notice of many of them. In the conſtant and undiſturbed Courſe of them, we are apt to be leſs ſenſible how much we ſtand indebted to thee for them. Yea, they have been ſo long continued to us, and we are ſo far from the Beginning of them, that we are too prone to forget the Head and Fountain from whence they ſpring.

O how ſad is it, that we ſhould love thee leſs, becauſe thou loveſt us ſo much! and that we ſhould think the ſeldomer of thy Bounty, becauſe thou conſtantly remembreſt us, and doſt us Good! How much ſhould we praiſe thee for our Health and Eaſe, if we were ſick and in Pain but a few Days! and yet now we praiſe thee but a little, though we are all well many Years!

Years! How thankful ſhould we be, if we were freed from the Devil, after he had affrighted and vexed us but one Night? and yet now, alas! we ſcarce mind thy Goodneſs which perpetually preſerves us from his Aſſaults.

Endue me, O God of all Grace, with a more ſerious Spirit, often reflecting and meditating upon thee, and upon thy Benefits, both to my Soul and Body, for this Life, and that which is to come; that I may not be taught the Value and Number of thy Bleſſings by being deprived of them, but in their conſtant Uſe and Enjoyment may ever duly ponder them; extolling and praiſing thy infinite Goodneſs, with ſenſible Love to thee, and Delight in doing of thy Will.

For which End, I beſeech thee to endue me with Power from above, that I may not deceive my own Soul with ſome paſſionate Deſires, Tranſports of Joy, or ſudden Reſolutions; but deliberately, and with the full Conſent of my Heart, devoting myſelf to thy Service, I may conſcientiouſly ſtudy to improve all thy Mercies to the Honour and Glory of thy Name, the Credit of my Religion, the Good and Profit of my Neighbours, and my own ſolid Peace and Comfort at preſent, and eternal Joy at the Day of the Lord.

And bleſs all others, I beſeech thee, that deſire the ſame Mercy of which thou haſt made me Partaker. Receive them into thy Protection; conduct them ſafely to the End of their Journies;

Journies; make them ever mindful of thy Loving-kindneſs, and careful to remember that every new Benefit is a new Bond to better Obedience. Unto which, good Lord, incline us all more and more, for thy Mercies Sake in Chriſt Jeſus; by whom, and for whom, thy glorious Name be bleſſed and praiſed for ever. *Amen.*

A Prayer to be ſaid by one going a Voyage on the Sea.

Which may be uſed, with a little Alteration, by his Friends for him.

O Moſt mighty Lord, *the God of our Salvation, who art the Confidence of all the Ends of the Earth, and of them that are afar off upon the Sea*[1], under whoſe powerful Protection we are alike ſecure in every Place, and without whoſe Providence over us, we can no where be in Safety: I am ſenſible of the tender Care thou haſt long taken of me, and that I have been preſerved by thee from innumerable Dangers, both in my Infancy and Childhood, and ever ſince; for which I have not thanked thee as I ought. I moſt humbly beſeech thee graciouſly to pardon this, and all other my Offences, which might juſtly weaken my Confidence

[1] Pſal. lxv. 5.

in

in thee, did I not feel thy Grace in Chriſt Jeſus, who died for us, to be ſo great, as to fill my Heart not only with unfeigned Sorrow for them, but with holy Reſolutions to be more grateful and dutiful in Time to come.

This emboldens me, with an humble Faith in thy Almighty Goodneſs, to commend myſelf ſtill to the Conduct, Guidance, and Bleſſing of thy merciful Providence. O God, receive me, though a ſinful Creature, into thy Favour and Grace: Purge my Heart from all Affection to every Thing that is evil; that I may not carry the Senſe of any Guilt unrepented of, along with me in my Voyage; but have my Heart ſettled in ſuch an unmoveable Love of all Piety, Righteouſneſs, and Sobriety of Mind and Life, that no Storm, or Tempeſt, or other Danger, may diſmay me, and make me afraid. They are all, I know, in thy Hands, to which I commit myſelf with an entire Truſt in thee, that nothing ſhall hurt me while I follow that which is good.

If thou art pleaſed to bring me to my deſired Haven, Lord, poſſeſs me then with theſe good Thoughts and Affections which I feel at preſent in my Heart towards thee; that my chief Joy may be in thee; and in the Love I find in my Heart to thee; and I may never forget thee by intemperate Mirth and Pleaſure in any other Enjoyment. But if thou thinkeſt good otherwiſe to diſpoſe of me, thy Will, O Lord, be done. I commend both my Body and

and my Spirit into thy Hands, who art able to make the Sea give up her Dead, by thine Almighty Word.

Help me always to hold faſt that Hope of eternal Life, *as an Anchor of my Soul both ſure and ſtedfaſt*[r], which may preſerve me in unſhaken Comfort and Joy at the Hour of Death itſelf. And looking up to that quiet Place, whither *Jeſus our Fore-runner is entered for us*, I may begin thoſe Praiſes and Thankſgivings which I hope ſhall have no End, but be continued for ever in the Company of the Bleſſed in the other World. Unto which, I beſeech thee, of thine infinite Mercies, to bring me, through Chriſt Jeſus, who *is made an High-Prieſt for ever*. Amen.

A THANKSGIVING *after it is finiſhed, and the Party returned Home again.*

O Bleſſed Lord, *thou art great, and greatly to be praiſed*; for by *thy Word the Heavens were made, and all the Hoſt of them by the Breath of thy Mouth. Thou didſt gather the Waters of the Sea together as an Heap, and laidſt them up in the Store-houſes of the Deeps.* They are all at thy Command, and *whatſoever thou pleaſeſt, that doeſt thou in Heaven and in Earth, in the Seas and all deep Places. I have ſeen thy Works, O Lord, and thy Wonders in the Deep: For thou*

[r] Heb iv. 19, 20.

ſpeakeſt

ſpeakeſt the Word, and the ſtormy Wind aroſe, which lifted up the Waves thereof. And again, *When we cried unto thee, thou madeſt the Storm a Calm, ſo that the Waves thereof were ſtill*[s].

Bleſſed be thy Almighty Goodneſs, which carried me ſafe through ſuch great and dreadful Dangers. Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, that the Deep hath not ſwallowed me up, and that I am not gone down into Silence. Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, that neither my Body nor my Goods became a Prey to unreaſonable Men; but that thou broughteſt me to the Haven where I would be, and haſt now returned me Home in Safety.

O God, that I may never forget the Vows which I was forward to make when I was in Trouble, preſerve in me for ever an awful Senſe and Apprehenſion of thy great Power, who *bringeſt the Wind out of thy Treaſuries, and ruleſt the raging of the Sea, and ſtilleſt the Noiſe of its Waves. Who would not fear thee, O Lord, who would not tremble at thy Preſence? who haſt placed the Sand for the Bound of the Sea, by a perpetual Decree, that it cannot paſs it; and though the Waves thereof toſs themſelves, yet can they not prevail; tho' they roar, yet can they not paſs over it*[t].

O poſſeſs my Heart with a greater Reverence of thy Divine Majeſty, that I may ever *ſerve thee with Fear, and rejoice before thee with Trem-*

[s] Pſal. xlviii. 1. xxxiii. 6, 7. cxxxv. 6. cvii. 24, &c.
[t] Pſal. cxxxx. 7. lxxxix. 9. Jer. v. 22. Pſal. cxx. 11.

bling.

ling. Eſpecially make me fearful of offending thee, who art ſo great and powerful, and haſt done ſuch great Things for me, and canſt do greater, and wilt do them as thou haſt promiſed by Chriſt Jeſus, who hath *Power to ſubdue all Things to himſelf* [u].

Bleſſed be thy infinite Grace which hath wrought ſuch a marvellous Redemption for us by him. *How ſhall I eſcape if I neglect ſo great Salvation!* How miſerable ſhall I be, if after all the Dangers from which I have now been reſcued, I ſhould, for my Ingratitude and Diſobedience, be *caſt into the Lake of Fire and Brimſtone?* O God, that all thy Mercies and Deliverances here may, by a thankful Remembrance and careful Improvement of them, only prepare me for that glorious Deliverance at the Day of the Lord Jeſus! and as by thy good Providence thou haſt ſaved me from the Violence of Storms and Tempeſts, and other Hazards, ſo by thy Grace deliver me from the Power and Violence of all Temptations; and enable me ſtedfaſtly to perſiſt in Well-doing, and Patient-ſuffering unto the End.

Endue me with ſuch a right Senſe of my Religion, as may make it to be my Delight; that ſo I may be out of all Danger of being prevailed withal to forſake that which is ſo ſweet and pleaſant to my Soul. O that it may be my Guide in Proſperity, and my Comfort in Adverſity; the Rule of my Life, and my

[u] Phil. iii. 20. Heb. ii. 3.

great Satisfaction in Death. Sanctify every Condition unto me; that Sickneſs or Health, Poverty or Riches, Honour or Diſgrace may prove real Bleſſings to me, and make me profit in Piety and Virtue. And let a great Senſe of thee, and of Religion, intermix itſelf with all my Employments. Teach me ſo to behave myſelf, that I may be acceptable in thy Sight, not only when I make ſuch Addreſſes as theſe unto thee, but whether I eat or drink, or whatſoever I do elſe, I may abide in thy Love, and be approved by thee, for a good and faithful Servant.

All which I moſt humbly beg of thee, and whatſoever thou ſeeſt good for me, in the Name of the Lord Jeſus; by whom, and with whom, in the Unity of the Holy Ghoſt, all Honour and Glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, World without End.

A Prayer in a Storm.

O God, who haſt bid us in the Day of Trouble to call upon thee, to whom alone *belong the Iſſues from Death*, I flee to thee for Protection and Safety in this great and dreadful Diſtreſs. The Sea roars, and the Deep is ready to ſwallow me up. *The Floods O Lord are lifted up, the Floods lift up their Waves: But the Lord on high is*

is mightier than the Noiſe of many Waters; yea, than the mighty Waves of the Sea.

To thy Almighty Love I commit myſelf, who canſt immediately rebuke the Winds and the Sea, and turn this Storm into a Calm. I have juſtly deſerved, I know, to be caſt away, and rejected by thee, upon whom I now caſt myſelf for Safety. But I hope thou wilt accept of my unfeigned Sorrow for all my Sins, and my unfeigned Purpoſe to forſake them. Have Mercy upon me, have Mercy upon me, I moſt humbly beſeech thee, O moſt merciful Father, for Jeſus Chriſt his Sake, who *deſcended into the lower Parts of the Earth* for me, and is now *aſcended far above all Heavens*, to ſuccour thoſe that call upon thee in his Name. For his Sake ſpare me at leaſt from going down into utter Darkneſs; and if it be thy Will, from periſhing here in the deep Waters. O give me the Comfort of thy Mercy, that, though the Sea rages, my Heart may be quiet and ſtill.

And as I deſire to be preſerved from this preſent Danger, ſo I earneſtly deſire thou wilt preſerve in me hereafter a pious Dread of thy Divine Majeſty; the leaſt Expreſſion of whoſe Diſpleaſure, I ſee in this Tempeſt, is exceeding full of Terror. Awaken my Soul perpetually by the Thoughts of it, to live a more ſober, righteous, and godly Life; that being ſaved from Death, I may never forget thy Loving-kindneſs, but ſtudy as long as ever I live, to

ſhew myſelf truly thankful to thee, by ſincere and careful Obedience, through our Lord Jeſus; to whom with thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghoſt, be eternal Praiſes. *Amen.*

A THANKSGIVING *after a Storm.*

GLory, Honour, Thankſgiving, and Praiſe be unto thee, O God my Saviour, and my mighty Deliverer. Thou art worthy of all my Love, and all my Service, of more than I can be ever able to render to thee, who haſt made me, and redeemed me, and now graciouſly preſerved me. What ſhall I return unto thee for all the Benefits thou haſt heaped on me? I can never thank thee, never love thee enough, for thoſe which I have formerly received; and yet *thou haſt now put a new Song into my Mouth, even Praiſe unto my God*, Pſal. xl. 2.

For if the Lord had not been with me, I muſt needs acknowledge, if it had not been the Lord who protected me when the Sea roſe up againſt me, then it had ſwallowed me up quick, when it ſwelled and raged horribly againſt me. Then the Waters had overwhelmed me, the Streams had gone over my Soul. Then the proud Waters had gone over my Soul. Bleſſed be the Lord, who hath not caſt me out of his Sight, nor ſuffered all his Billows and Waves

Waves to paſs over me[x]. *I have eſcaped the ſtormy Wind and Tempeſt; the Storm is ceaſed, and I am eſcaped. I will ſacrifice to thee therefore the Voice of Thankſgiving. I will pay that which I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord. Our Help is in the Lord, who made the Heaven and the Earth*[y].

Let the Remembrance of thy Mercy never ſlip out of my Mind. And make me as mindful of my own Promiſes, as forward to every Part of my Duty, and chearful in the Performance of it; that ſo I may be able to truſt in thee at all Times. *When my Soul is ready to faint within me, help me to remember thee, O Lord,* and always ſtudy to walk before thee, as thy every Way redeemed one; who deſires that all thoſe who have been Partakers in the ſame Deliverance, may all expreſs the ſame Thankfulneſs, and *pay thee the Vows which their Lips have uttered when they were in Trouble.*

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his Name together.

Let us ſacrifice the Sacrifice of Thankſgiving, and declare his Works with Rejoicing.

For his merciful Kindneſs is great towards us; and his Truth endureth for ever. Praiſe the Lord. Amen, Amen.

[x] Pſal. cxxiv. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. [y] Jonah ii. 3, 4, 7, 9.

A Prayer in Time of great Thunder and Lightning.

O Great God, who art *wiſe in Heart, and mighty in Strength*; *who removeſt the Mountains, and overturneſt them in thine Anger*; *who ſhakeſt the Earth out of her Place, and the Pillars thereof tremble*; *who doeſt great Things paſt finding out*; *yea, and Wonders without Number*[z]: I proſtrate myſelf in awful Adoration of thee; For *the Voice of the Lord is very powerful*; *the Voice of the Lord is full of Majeſty. The Voice of the Lord rends the Air, and ſends out Flames of Fire*[a].

Who would not fear thee, *O God of Glory*? who would not ſtand in Awe of thee, who canſt inſtantly, I ſee, *tear us in Pieces, and none can deliver us*[b]? It is of thy meer Mercy, that the *Arrows thou now ſendeſt out do not ſcatter us*; and that thou doſt not *ſhoot out Lightnings to diſcomfit us*[c]. Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, that we are not utterly conſumed by *the Blaſt of the Breath of thy Noſtrils*. O that thy ſparing Mercy may ſenſibly affect my Heart, and move me hereafter to *ſerve thee acceptably with Reverence and godly Fear*, remembring that *our God is a conſuming Fire*[d].

Settle in my Heart an holy Dread of thee, that as I now tremble at thy Voice, ſo I may always

[z] Job ix. 4, 5, 6, &c. [a] Pſal. xxix. 4, 7. [b] Pſal. l. 22. [c] Pſal. xviii. 14. cxliv. 6. [d] Heb. xii. 28.

always *tremble at thy Word*, and not dare to offend thee, who wilt ſend thy Son, I know, one Day (in a far more terrible Manner than this) *with thy mighty Angels in flaming Fire, taking Vengeance on them that know not thee, and obey not the Goſpel of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt* [a]. O that my Heart may be poſſeſſed now with ſuch a conſtant Fear of thee, and ſuch an ardent Love and Devotion to thee, that at that dreadful Day, when Heaven and Earth ſhall quake, I may be able, with a good Hope in thee, joyfully to expect a comfortable Sentence from thee; that when the Wicked ſhall hear that Voice (more terrible than any Thunder) *Depart from me, ye curſed, into everlaſting Fire, prepared for the Devil and his Angels*, I may be in the Number of thoſe happy Souls, to whom our Lord will ſay, *Come, ye bleſſed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the Foundation of the World.*

Which I humbly beg, for his Sake under whoſe Feet thou haſt put all Things in Subjection, both in Heaven and Earth. To him, with thyſelf, and thy Holy Spirit, be given, as is moſt due, all Honour and Glory, all Service and humble Obedience, both now and evermore. *Amen.*

[a] 2 Theſſ. i. 8.

A Prayer to be uſed by a Woman with Child.

O God the Author of our Being, the Fountain of Life, and all other Good, who haſt begun an excellent Work in me, which no Eye but thine ſees, and no Hand but thy Almighty Power can finiſh, I adore thy great and glorious Majeſty in this, and in all other thy Works of Wonder. *Thou doſt great Things without Number*, but art more particularly to be acknowledged in the Formation of Mankind, who *are fearfully and wonderfully made*, after thy own Image and Likeneſs.

Be pleaſed, O Lord, in thy infinite Goodneſs, to perfect and compleat that which thou haſt begun. Preſerve the ſmalleſt Degree of Life, which thou haſt inſpired: Beſtow upon it Entireneſs of all its Parts, and prepare a convenient Habitation for an underſtanding Spirit, capable of the beſt Wiſdom, and inclinable to Virtue and Goodneſs. Prevent, good Lord, the Miſcarriage of my Hopes, and ripen them to a good Iſſue. And the nearer they come to their full Growth, ſtrengthen the more my humble Truſt in thee, and Submiſſion to thee, and hearty Deſires to increaſe the Number of thy faithful People, together with my own Family.

That ought to be the chiefeſt Deſire of my Soul, to be formed myſelf in all Things, according to the Mind and Will of thee, my God;

God; that ſo I may be an Inſtrument of doing Good to others. O thou, who haſt wrought many holy Purpoſes and Reſolutions in my Heart, preſerve and confirm them, that they may not prove abortive, but bring forth continually the Fruit of good living. Perfect me in Knowledge, in Faith, in Love, and in Obedience. Enable me ſo diſcreetly and carefully to diſcharge the Duties of all the Relations wherein I at preſent, or ſhall hereafter ſtand, that I may be a Comfort to them, and a Credit to Religion. And howſoever thou diſpoſeſt of me, or them, Lord, make me well contented, and in every Condition to give Thanks unto thee, and to rejoice in thy holy Name, and in the Hope of eternal Life, through Chriſt Jeſus, my moſt bleſſed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

A Prayer when the Time of her Travail draweth near.

O God, the Helper and Deliverer of all thoſe that truſt in thee, by whoſe Power I was formed in my Mother's Womb, by whoſe Care I was brought from thence, and by whoſe merciful Kindneſs I have been preſerved in many Dangers ſince. I praiſe and magnify thy great and glorious Name; and am encouraged by the Remembrance of thy Mercies, which have been

ever of old, to implore thy compaſſionate Help in the approaching Time of my Need, Pain, and Danger.

Thou art preſent to all thy Creatures, and heareſt the Cries of the Beaſts of the Earth, which all wait upon thee: O be not far from me, when Trouble is near, but hearken unto me, and ſave me, when I call upon thee. Shorten my Pains, or lengthen my Patience, which thou pleaſeſt. Bear up my Spirit in Submiſſion to thy Will, and in ſome humble Hope that I *ſhall forget my Anguiſh, for Joy that a Man is brought into the World. Forſake not the Work of thy own Hand*[t], but in due Time perfect it, and bring forth that which thou haſt wrought in ſecret into Light, that we may all ſee the Wonders of thy Wiſdom, and praiſe thy Goodneſs and thy Power.

My Parents truſted in thee; they truſted, and thou didſt deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered; they cried unto thee, and were not confounded[u]. In thee likewiſe do I humbly put my Truſt and Confidence, which nothing diſheartens but my own great Unworthineſs, by reaſon of my Forgetfulneſs of thy Benefits, and unthankful Returns for former Mercies beſtowed upon me. But thou haſt taken Care that this ſhould not diſcourage me neither, by proclaiming a gracious Pardon, by him that was born of a Woman, and died for us, unto contrite and reforming Sinners.

[t] John xvi. 21. Pſal. cxxxviii. 8. [u] Pſal. xxii. 4, 5.

Accept,

Accept, I beſeech thee, of my ſincere Reſolutions to preſerve hereafter a more affectionate Remembrance of thy Love to me, and to dedicate myſelf and all I have to thy Service, in *Faith and Charity, and Holineſs, with Sobriety* [h]. Or if thou art pleaſed otherwiſe to diſpoſe of me, I reſign myſelf heartily unto thee. Lord, receive me to a better Life, where all Sighing and Sorrow ſhall be done away, and eternal Joy entirely poſſeſs our Hearts. *Amen*, for Chriſt Jeſus his Sake, *Amen*.

A Prayer to the ſame Purpoſe, to be ſaid by her Relations.

O Moſt mighty Lord, who haſt already given us innumerable Pledges of thy Love, and many Arguments to truſt in thee for ever, and to expect with quiet and patient Minds the Iſſue of thy wiſe and good Providence: Thou haſt reſpect to all the Works of thy Hands; eſpecially to the Sons of Men, and to thoſe above the reſt who ſeek thy Favour, and give thee the Glory of all thy Mercies, and are reſolved to devote themſelves and their Children, and all they have, to do thee Honour in the World. We moſt humbly commend thy Servant, drawing near the Time of her Travail, to thy Care and Bleſſing, beſeeching thee to give

[h] 1 Tim. ii. 25.

her

her a gracious Deliverance, and to eaſe her of the Burthen wherewith ſhe labours.

We ourſelves are Monuments of that Mercy which we beg of thee. Thou broughteſt us into this World, and didſt unlooſe the Bands wherewith we were ſwadled in our Mother's Womb. We have had long Experience alſo of thy Readineſs to ſuccour us, and to do us Good ever ſince, many Times beyond our Deſires and Hopes, and always beyond our Deſervings. We dare not but commit ourſelves, and every Thing belonging unto us, moſt heartily into Hands, remembring that thou haſt the ſame Power and Goodneſs ſtill, by which we came into the Light of the Living; and thou ſtill exerciſeſt them, as thy Wiſdom thinkeſt moſt meet.

We cannot deſire to be better provided for, than as thy infinite Underſtanding and Counſel judges moſt convenient for us. Unto thee we refer ourſelves, beſeeching thee, if it be thy good Pleaſure, that her Deliverance may be as ſpeedy as her Cries unto thee, and her Patience as great and as long as her Pains. Thou who ripeneſt the Fruits of the Earth, and then giveſt us to gather them to our Comfort, blaſt not our humble Hopes of the Fruit of the Womb; but after thou haſt brought it to Maturity deliver it into our Hands, as a new Pledge of thy Goodneſs to us; for which we will ever thankfully acknowledge and praiſe thy Name.

Or,

Or if thou haſt otherwiſe determined, Lord, give us Grace to ſubmit to thy holy Will, and to reſt ſatisfied in thy wiſe Appointments, and never to diſtruſt thy Goodneſs and Care over us. Yea, help us ſtill to bleſs thee, and to ſpeak good of thy Name, ſaying, *The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, bleſſed be the Name of the Lord, from henceforth and for ever.* Amen.

A Prayer to be ſaid by them, when ſhe is actually in Travail.

O Father of Mercies, and God of all Comfort, our only Help in Time of Need, we fly to thee for Succour in Behalf of this thy Servant, who now expects thy Mercy, in this her great Diſtreſs. The Sorrows which thou threatnedſt to our firſt Parent, are come upon her, the Pangs of Travail have taken hold of her. May it pleaſe thee, O Lord, to give her Eaſe, by being her ſpeedy Deliverer.

As thou haſt made her conceive, and haſt now brought to the Birth, ſo give her Strength alſo to bring forth. Support her Spirits in her Labour; bleſs the Endeavours of thoſe who are to aſſiſt her; preſerve that Infant Life which ſtruggles in her Womb to be delivered, and let us ſee the Work of thy Hands, to all our Joy and Comfort.

O bleſſed

O bleſſed Jeſus, who thyſelf waſt born of a Woman, make Haſte to help her. Be with her in her Agony; enable her patiently to bear her Pain, and humbly to depend on thy Goodneſs for Safety and Salvation. And if it ſeem good to thee, ſhorten her Labour, and make her the joyful Mother of a Child, to ſucceed in our Place, to love and ſerve thee, the Saviour of Men. *Amen.*

Lord hear our Prayer, and let our Cry come unto thee.

Ariſe and help her, and deliver her for thy Mercies Sake, Pſal. xliv. ult.

O Saviour of the World, who by thy Croſs and Paſſion hath redeemed us, ſave her and help her, we humbly beſeech thee, O Lord. Amen[a].

A THANKSGIVING *to be uſed by thoſe preſent, after her ſafe Deliverance.*

WE thank thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, for thy long continued Goodneſs to us thy Creatures, who are unworthy of the leaſt of thy Favours. *In thee we live, and move, and have our Being.* And it is only of thy Mercy, that we have not lived in perpetual Pain and Torment, ſpending our Days in Sighs and Lamentations, but have enjoyed much Health and Eaſe, and had innu-

[a] Theſe Sentences may be often repeated.

merable

merable Occasions to praise thee, and to rejoice in thee, *who loadest us daily with thy Benefits.* Blessed be thy Name, O Lord, *who forgivest all our Iniquities, and healest all our Diseases: Who redeemest our Life from Destruction, and crownest us with loving Kindness and tender Mercies.* More particularly we thank thee, that thou hast heard the humble Supplications of this thy Servant, to whom thou hast now granted a gracious Deliverance, and turned her Sorrow and Heaviness into Joy and Gladness. We thank thee, that thou hast sent her seasonable Helpers, and blessed their Endeavours for the Preservation of her, and of the Fruit of her Womb: And that thou likewise vouchsafest her all needful Things for her Refreshment in this weak Condition wherein she lies; waiting upon thee for the perfecting of thy Mercies towards her.

Accept, we beseech thee, of our hearty Acknowledgments of thy powerful and good Providence over her, and over any Person here present in the like Necessity; which we now thankfully call to Mind, and desire may never be forgotten. O that a lively Remembrance of this, and all other thy Mercies, may so mightily affect our Hearts, that we may be moved thereby to fear thee all our Days, and to love thee, and to put our Trust in thee, and with quiet and resigned Minds, to cast all our Burthens and Cares on thee, in a constant

and

and chearful Obedience to all thy holy Commands.

And ſince thou haſt begun to be ſo gracious to this thy Handmaid, grant unto her, and her Relations, farther Favour, *and finiſh their Life in Health, with Joy and Mercy*[k]. Renew her Strength daily; and as that increaſeth, ſo make her Thankfulneſs and pious Affections towards thee, and ſerious Reſolution to obey thee faithfully, grow up together therewith.

Refreſh her Spirit while ſhe lieth on this Bed of Weakneſs, with many heavenly Thoughts, and delightful Meditations of thy Mercies towards her, and towards Mankind; eſpecially with a Senſe of thy wonderful Love in Chriſt Jeſus, who was pleaſed to be born of a Woman, and to become like one of us, that we might be aſſured of thy Care over us in every Condition, and be made thy Children, and at the laſt the Heirs of everlaſting Life. And when ſhe hath recovered her former Strength, make her to feel this Love ſtill more powerful in her Heart, exciting her to ſerve thee carefully in all Righteouſneſs, Sobriety, Modeſty, Devotion, and Readineſs to aſſiſt others, eſpecially the Poor and Needy in the ſame Diſtreſs wherein ſhe hath been herſelf.

We commend likewiſe this little One, which thou haſt bleſſed her withal, unto thy tender Care and Fatherly Love, beſeeching thee that it may live to be dedicated unto thee, and to

[k] Tob. viii. 16.

be

be inſtructed in the Knowledge of thee, and to praiſe thee, as we now do, for bringing it into the World, and for making it Partaker likewiſe of thy Grace in Chriſt Jeſus. Or if it ſhall ſeem good to thee, to let either of them fall into any farther Danger, enable her to endure it with patient Submiſſion to thee, truſting, even in Death itſelf, in thy good Providence, and in thy precious Promiſes, who never faileſt thoſe that faithfully ſeek thee.

Hear us, O Father of Mercies, and pardon our Offences; pity our Infirmities; make us more thankful for what we have received, and more fit for thy future Mercies, either in this Life or in the next, through thy infinite Love declared to us in Chriſt Jeſus; in whoſe holy Words we conclude our Prayers, ſaying, as he hath taught us,

Our Father, &c.

A THANKSGIVING *to be uſed by the* PERSON *herſelf, when ſhe is able.*

UNto thee, O God, do I give Thanks, unto thee do I give Thanks; for that thou art near, thy wondrous Works declare. In my Diſtreſs I called upon thee, and my Cry came unto thee. I ſought thee, O Lord, and thou heardeſt me, and deliveredſt me from all my Fears. In the Day when I cried, thou anſweredſt me, and ſtrengthnedſt me with Strength in my Soul. Thou haſt

haſt brought up my Soul from the Grave; thou haſt kept me alive, that I ſhould not go down to the Pit. Bleſſed be God which hath not turned away my Prayer, nor his Mercy from me[l]. Bleſſed be God, who hath preſerved the Fruit of my Womb, and made me the joyful Mother of a Child. *Thy Vows are upon me, O God, I will render Praiſe unto thee. I will ſing unto the Lord as long as I live; I will ſing Praiſes unto my God, while I have any Being. My Meditation of him ſhall be ſweet, I will be glad in the Lord.*

Accept, O moſt merciful Father, of theſe thankful Acknowledgments, *which go not forth out of feigned Lips*[m]: And be pleaſed graciouſly to preſerve ſuch a laſting and freſh Remembrance of thy great Mercies in my Heart, that I may always be joyful in thee, and ſpeak good of thy Name, and truſt in thee at all Times, and ſtill *cry unto thee, O God moſt high, who performeſt all Things for me.* Make me ſtudious likewiſe, and forward to bring forth all the Fruits of Righteouſneſs, throughout the whole Courſe of my Life, which may witneſs the Truth and Sincerity of my Thankfulneſs to thee.

O that I may never be leſs earneſt and fervent in the Return of Obedience, than I have been in Deſires and Prayers to receive thy Bleſſing! Diſpoſe me to have a kind and ten-

[l] Pſal. lxv. 1. xviii. 6. xxxiv. 4. cxxxviii. 3. xxx. 3. lxvi. 20. lvi. 12. civ. 33, 34. [m] Pſal. xvii. 2. lvii. 2.

der

der Care of this Infant, which thou haſt committed to my Charge: Make me willing to undergo, to the utmoſt of my Power, the Pains that accompany its Education. Let not the Love of Eaſe and Pleaſure breed in me an Averſeneſs to any Duty, to which both Nature and Religion incline me; or give me Grace, by ſober Thoughts, and a thankful Remembrance of the late Pain from which thou haſt delivered me, to overcome it.

Eſpecially endue me with the greateſt Love to its precious and immortal Soul: And help me ſo to grow and increaſe in Chriſtian Wiſdom and Goodneſs, that I may be able to inſtruct it, when it is capable, in the Fear of our Lord; and by meek and gentle Admonitions, together with a good Example in all Things, to win it to the Love of true Godlineſs. Or if thou art pleaſed to take it from me, who deſerve not the leaſt of thy Mercies, Lord, ſo moderate my Affections, and bring them in Subjection to thee, that I may not undutifully repine at thy Providence, but in an humble Adoration of thy unſearchable Wiſdom, and a ſtedfaſt Confidenoe of thy Good-will towards me, reſign it unto thee, from whom I received it.

And I alſo beſeech thy Divine Goodneſs, when thou ſhalt reſtore me to the public Aſſemblies of thy People again, to give me Grace to receive that Mercy with exceeding Joy. Prepare my Heart with an enlarged Affection, to

offer

offer unto thee not only the Sacrifice of Praiſe, giving Thanks unto thy Name, but all other Oblations which ought to accompany ſuch Addreſſes to thy glorious Majeſty; that they may be but an Earneſt of my future Diligence and Zeal in thy divine Service, and of my Readineſs to do Good, and communicate unto others; whereby I may *lay up in Store for myſelf a good Foundation againſt the Time to come, that I may lay hold on eternal Life* through Jeſus Chriſt [a]. *Amen.*

A Prayer for good Succeſs in ſome extraordinary Buſineſs.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, the ſupreme Governor of the whole World, who diſpoſeſt and ordereſt all Things, in Heaven and in Earth with admirable Judgment, and canſt not poſſibly err in what thou doeſt, nor fail of what thou deſigneſt, I adore, in the humbleſt Reverence of my Soul, thy moſt Glorious Majeſty; thy eternal Power, Holineſs, Goodneſs, and Truth, which are all beyond my Comprehenſion: And more particularly I adore thy unſpotted Juſtice, and all-ſeeing Wiſdom, which penetrates into the deepeſt Secrets, and ſpies out all the Ways of the Sons of Men, and renders to every one of them according to their Doings.

[a] 1 Tim. vi. 19.

I know,

I know, O Lord, that the Way of Man is not in himſelf; it is not in Man that walketh to direct his Steps[n]. The Succeſs of all our Counſels and Actions depends on thy Pleaſure; and when we have *deviſed the Way*[o] we intend to go, thou giveſt it what Iſſue ſeems good in thine Eyes. *There are many Devices in a Man's Heart; nevertheleſs thy Counſel, O Lord, that ſhall ſtand.* I will therefore *bleſs thee, O Lord my God, alway, and deſire of thee that my Ways may be directed, and that all my Paths and Counſels may proſper; for thou thyſelf giveſt all good Things, and thou humbleſt whom thou wilt, and as thou wilt.*

Accordingly I now moſt earneſtly recommend myſelf, and all my Concerns to thee, who haſt bid me *in all my Ways acknowledge thee, and thou wilt direct my Paths*[p]. *I truſt* in thy wiſe and good Providence *with all my Heart, and lean not unto mine own Underſtanding.* I hope in thy Mercy, that thou wilt ſo direct, aſſiſt, and proſper all my Thoughts, Deſigns, and Endeavours, that they may attain their deſired End.

And above all Things, I deſire that I may have Grace to deſign and ſeek for nothing but what is juſt and honeſt, pious and charitable, Praiſe-worthy, and of good Report. Bleſs me, good Lord, with that Integrity of Heart, in which thou ſo much delighteſt; and then

[n] Jer. x. 23. Prov. xvi. 9. xix. 21. [o] Tob. iv. 19.
[p] Prov. iii. 5, 6.

bleſs

bleſs me with Wiſdom and good Underſtanding in all my Affairs, that *I may guide them with Diſcretion:* For *it is thou that leadeſt into Wiſdom, and directeſt the Wiſe. In thy Hand are both we and our Words: All Wiſdom alſo, and Knowledge of Workmanſhip*[q]. Leave me not therefore, *O Lord, Father and Governor of all my whole Life,* leave me not to myſelf alone; but *ſend out thy Wiſdom from the Throne of thy Glory, that being preſent, ſhe may labour with me: And turn away from me vain Hopes*[r]. Endue me alſo with a patient, contented, and untroubled Spirit, that I may wait on thee as long as thou pleaſeſt; and whatſoever the Event ſhall be, enable me to rejoice in thee as my Portion, and to reſt perfectly ſatisfied in thy Love, and in the aſſured Hope of good Things in the other World.

I humbly recommend likewiſe to thy merciful Guidance, all thoſe with whom I have intruſted any of my Concerns; that they may manage all their Undertakings with Skill and Prudence, Juſtice and Fidelity; and do for me, as they would that I or others ſhould do for them. Make us all ever mindful, that *all our Works are as the Sun before thee, and thy Eyes are continually upon our Ways*[s]; that we may never dare to do any Thing but what thou approveſt, and of which we may give a comfortable Account at the great Day of Judgment.

[q] Wiſd. vii. 15. ix. 10. Eccleſ. xxiii. 1, 5. [r] Eccleſ. xvii. 19. Epheſ. iii. 20. Rom. xvi. 25, 27.

Now

Now unto him that is of Power to do for me exceeding abundantly above all that I aſk or think, to God only wiſe, be Glory, through Jeſus Chriſt, for ever. Amen.

A Prayer when one intends to live unmarried.

O Lord, the Lover of Souls, from whom they were made, and in whom alone they can be happy; *there is none I have in Heaven but thee, nor on Earth that I deſire beſides thee*[a]; who art the Perfection of Wiſdom, Power, and Goodneſs, and the Fountain of all the Good that is in us; thou art able to raiſe us to what Degree of Wiſdom, Strength, and Goodneſs thou pleaſeſt; and haſt promiſed us thine Aſſiſtance, to make us like unto thee, and aſſured us we ſhall be immortally bleſſed, by a glorious Participation of thee. Thou draweſt us ſo mightily that we have no Power to reſiſt thee, when our Minds turn themſelves towards thee, and reflect upon thy moſt excellent Nature, which diſcovers itſelf in all thy Bounty to us, and the reſt of thy Creatures.

We cannot but love thee when we think of thee; and when we love thee, we cannot but again think of thee, that we may have the Pleaſure ſtill of loving thee more. O fix my Mind, I beſeech thee, in a more ſtedfaſt Con-

[a] Pſal. xxiii. 25.

templation

templation of this and of all thy gracious Communications to me, that I may ſpend my Days delightfully in a perpetual Meditation of thy Mercies, which I have received in ſuch Abundance from thee.

There is nothing I know more natural and more eaſy, than to think of the Kindneſſes of thoſe that love us; eſpecially theirs to whom we bear a mutual Love. O how great, how free and undeſerved is thy Love to us! What infinite Reaſon is there that we ſhould love thee with all our Heart and with all our Soul, and with all our Strength! Inſpire me, O God, with ſuch a lively Senſe of thy Goodneſs in my Creation, and ever ſince, both to my Soul and to my Body, that I may ever preſerve a ſweet and grateful Remembrance of it, and may feel it provoking me daily to commemorate thy Loving-kindneſs with the moſt ardent Love of thee, my moſt bountiful Benefactor. O that I could love thee in every Thing that I ſee and enjoy! and be led by it to the Thoughts of thy admirable Wiſdom, which aſtoniſhes us, in the leaſt of thy Creatures; and of thy matchleſs Goodneſs, which hath provided ſuch Variety of Pleaſures for all our Senſes.

Poſſeſs me with a great and ſtrong Admiration of the Excellency of Wiſdom, that I may *be a Lover of her Beauty, and ſeek her out from my Youth, deſigning to marry her to myſelf. For thou, the Lord of all Things, thyſelf loveſt her: And therefore I purpoſe to take her to live with*

me,

me, knowing that she will be a Counsellor of good Things, and a Comfort in Cares and Grief[t]. But especially overpower my Heart with a strong and lasting Sense of thy exceeding abundant Kindness in Christ Jesus, *in whom thou hast chosen me, that I should be holy, and without Blame before thee in Love*[u]. Let me never think of that, but with such great Transports of Love and Joy, and Thankfulness unto thee, as may make me then forget all other Things. And make me to understand more and more how thy Love in him *hath abounded towards us in all Wisdom and Prudence*, that so I may be the more moved to admire it, and delight to meditate upon it, and be still searching into those Treasures of thy Wisdom, and unsearchable Riches of thy Grace, till I come *to be filled with all the Fulness of thee*[x], my God.

Translate all my Affections from these lower Objects, to him that is *fairer than the Children of Men*[y]; who loved me so much as to die for me; who is risen again, and sits at thy Right-Hand in incomparable Majesty and Glory. Raise up my Thoughts as high as that heavenly Place where he is, and where I hope one Day to be, *equal to the Angels, who neither marry, nor are given in Marriage*[z]. Help me to begin that happy State in separating myself frequently from all this World, and joining with that blessed Company above, in praising thee,

[t] Wisd. viii. 2, 3, 9. [u] Eph. i. 4, 8. [x] Eph. iii. 19.
[y] Psal. xlv. 2. [z] Luke xx. 16.

and giving Thanks unto thee, whoſe Mercies are great and endure for ever.

And when I am about any other Employment, help me chearfully to attend it, and with a willing Mind to perform the Duties belonging to it. Poſſeſs me with ſuch an Hatred of Idleneſs and Sloth, that I may always be buſied about ſome good or innocent Thing. Eſpecially diſpoſe me to exerciſe myſelf in Works of Mercy and Charity, and to take all Opportunities of doing Good to the Bodies or Souls of my Neighbours.

Endue me with Prudence and Diſcretion in the Choice of my Company and Friends; and give me Wiſdom to improve their Society to the beſt Purpoſes. Make my Mind more heavenly; and when any Thoughts contrary to my Inclinations and Reſolutions ariſe in me, turn them immediately to thyſelf and my bleſſed Saviour: Open my Eyes to behold the Things that are not ſeen; and put out the Splendor of all thoſe Things that dazzle our Eyes here, by the Appearance of a brighter and more glorious Good, which may raiſe my Deſigns higher than this World; and make all my Paſſions and Affections more equal and moderate; my Diſcourſe more profitable; my Behaviour more humble, modeſt, and ſuch as becometh Saints; and all my Actions more conformable to thy Will, and more exemplary to thoſe whom I converſe withal. *The very God of Peace ſanctify me wholly, and preſerve my whole*

whole Spirit, and Soul and Body blameleſs, unto the Coming of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt[a].

O that my Love to any Thing here, may not turn into Wantonneſs and Folly; nor my Joy and Chearfulneſs, into Lightneſs and Vanity; nor my Seriouſneſs or Sorrow, into Melancholy and Diſcontent; nor my juſt Anger, into Hatred and Contention; nor Induſtry in my Buſineſs, into Carefulneſs, Diſtruſt, and Earthlineſs of Mind; nor my Diſcretion and Prudence, into Craft, Diſſembling, and Deceit.

Diſpoſe my Heart, that I may ſo mind heavenly Things, as to be very humble and lowly in my own Eyes, and be ſo humble and ſenſible of my own Unworthineſs and Weakneſs, as to make my Addreſſes to thee continually, with the greater Earneſtneſs for thy merciful Help and Supply. Teach me ſo to pray and call upon thee, as to labour and ſtrive myſelf; and ſo to labour and run, that I may obtain. Let Faith in thy good Providence and precious Promiſes be my Comfort, and Hope of thy Glory make me rejoice; and a great Love to thee make me unwearied, and fill me with the Conſolations of the Holy Ghoſt. O that my Religion may become my Nature, ſo that it may not be my Burden or Trouble; and help me ſo to look upon it as my Duty, as withal to account it my Honour, Privilege, and Happineſs.

[a] 1 Theſſ. v. 23.

O that I may never desire any Thing, but to be so pure as thou wouldest have me; and to enjoy those Rewards of Holiness which thou canst, and wilt bestow upon me. This is the Sum of my Desires, that whatsoever I do may please thee, and whatsoever thou doest may be pleasing to me. Lord, help me, and answer me graciously: And if I shall see any Cause hereafter to change my Condition, preserve in me an unchangeable Love to thee above all Things, that still I may please thee, and be acceptable in thy Sight; delighting myself in Wisdom, and *reposing myself with her*; *for her Conversation hath no Bitterness*; *and to live with her hath no Sorrow, but Mirth and Joy*[b]. In which Happiness the Lord vouchsafe to keep me, whatever my Condition be, for Jesus his Sake, to whom with thee, O Father, and thy blessed Spirit, be everlasting Praises. *Amen.*

A shorter, to be added at any Time to other Devotions.

O Blessed Jesus, who camest down from Heaven in the most familiar Manner to us, and keptst thyself unspotted from the World, whilst thou hadst the most free Conversation in it, I commend myself to thy gracious Protection, Guidance, and Blessing, beseeching thee

[b] Wisd. viii. 6.

to

to preſerve me *holy, both in Body and Spirit*, while I live among Men, and am not retired from them.

I deſire chiefly to *care for thoſe Things that belong to thee, our Lord; how I may pleaſe thee, and attend upon thee without Diſtraction*[c]: Favour therefore, I humbly intreat thee, theſe pious Inclinations. I know how weak our Nature is, and therefore the more earneſtly deſire thee to keep my Heart ſtedfaſt in this Purpoſe, if thou ſeeſt it beſt for me. Help me to employ my Thoughts chearfully and conſtantly on heavenly Things. Fill me with great Devotion to thee, that when I am employed in other Affairs, and am in other Company, they may not draw my Heart too ſtrongly to them, but I may ſtill remain fixed in what I have decreed, to be freed from all other Cares, that I may more entirely ſerve thee.

Give thy holy Angels a ſpecial Charge of me: Let thy bleſſed Spirit powerfully aſſiſt me: Turn away mine Eyes from beholding Vanity: Incline me alway to *adorn myſelf in modeſt Apparel, with Shamefacedneſs and Sobriety*[d], ſtudying rather to approve myſelf to thee in good Works, than to appear beautiful before Men.

Be thou my Love, my Satisfaction, my Joy, my Heart's Delight. Never abſent thyſelf from me, nor leave me to follow any of my own Paſſions, but conduct me pure and undefiled to the Company of thoſe bleſſed Virgins and

[c] 1 Cor. vii. 32, 34, 35. [d] 1 Tim. ii. 9.

holy Ones, who reign with thee for ever. *Amen*, *Lord Jesus.*

I pray God my whole Spirit, and Soul, and Body, be preserved blameless unto the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Thess. v. 23.

A Prayer when there are any Thoughts of changing that Condition, and Deliberations about Marriage.

O Lord my most gracious and merciful Father, of whose tender Care and good Providence I have had so long and abundant Experience, that I should be extremely ungrateful if I should not acknowledge thee, and love thee, and trust in thee, and upon all Occasions call upon thee, and seek thy Favour for ever. There hath no Day passed since I came into the World, but it hath brought along with it many Tokens of thy Love, which thou art still renewing every Moment of my Life. By thee I have been carried through all the Dangers of Infancy and Childhood, unto this Age of Understanding and Reason: And thou hast blessed me many Ways since that Time; especially with some Remembrance and Sense of thyself, from whom I came, and on whom I depend; which I account the greatest Benefit of all. Blessed be thy Goodness, that I am not a perfect

fect Stranger to thee, but that thou haſt made me to know ſomething of thee, and of thy infinite Goodneſs, who alone art able to make me happy, both here and eternally.

I hope in thee, O my God, that thou wilt never forſake me, but be my Guide, even unto Death. Pardon, I beſeech thee, all the Sins and Negligences of which I have at any Time been guilty; and let them not hinder the Continuance of thy Mercy and Favour towards me, on which all the Comforts of my Life depend. Leave me not to myſelf, and the Weakneſs of my own Counſels, eſpecially now in the greateſt Turn and Change of my Life; but vouchſafe to direct my Thoughts, and all the Motions of my Heart aright, to that which will be moſt profitable for me, and conduce every Way to my future Comfort and Satisfaction.

Lead me in the Way wherein I ſhall go, and guide me for thy Name's Sake. Endue me with ſuch a ſerious, conſiderate, and diſcerning Spirit, that I may not follow the Enticements of any fading and periſhing Good, but cleave to that which is unchangeable and never dies. *Favour*, thou haſt taught me, *is deceitful, and Beauty is vain; but one that feareth the Lord ſhall be praiſed* [c]. O poſſeſs my Heart with an holy Fear of thee, that nothing may appear ſo amiable in my Eyes, as true Religion, Piety, and Virtue. Make me in Love with

[c] Prov. xxxi. 30.

the Beauties of Widom *(for thou loveſt none but him that dwelleth with Wiſdom, to be allied unto which is Immortality; and great Pleaſure, I know it is, to have her Friendſhip*[f]*)* and with the Beauties of Sobriety, Meekneſs, Mercifulneſs, Humility, and all thoſe Things which are the Image of thy Goodneſs; that being inclined by theſe in my Choice, I may find a fit Perſon to be the Guide of my Youth [*or an Help-meet for me*] the Delight of mine Eyes; in whoſe Society I may enjoy a conſtant Relief, Eaſe, and Pleaſure, and be ſet forward thereby in the Way to Heaven.

Aſſiſt me, I beſeech thee, in all my Deliberations about this Change, that I may ſoberly weigh every Thing which is offered to my Thoughts. And after all the Dangers which, by thy Goodneſs, I have eſcaped, I may not be ſo unhappy now, as to fall into the ſaddeſt of all, by the Strength of Fancy, by Raſhneſs and Unadviſedneſs of Mind, or the Violence and Unrulineſs of any Paſſion; but may diſpoſe of my Affections to a Perſon worthy of them. Help me, bleſſed Lord, to make ſo wiſe a Choice, that I may never repent of it afterward.

Direct and govern likewiſe the Minds and Hearts of all thoſe [*Parents or Friends*] that tranſact any Thing on my Behalf; that they may have a Reſpect chiefly to thoſe Things which endure for ever; and ſettle me there,

[f] Wiſd. vii. 28. viii. 17, 18.

where

where I may moſt glorify thee, and do moſt Good, and increaſe in Wiſdom and Virtue, and live in Peace, Chearfulneſs, and Contentment, to the End of my Days: Which Mercies, and all others that thou ſeeſt requiſite for me, I moſt humbly beg of thee, for Jeſus Chriſt's Sake, the Lord of Peace; to whom with thyſelf, and good Spirit, I deſire to give, as is moſt due, eternal Praiſes. *Amen.*

A Prayer when a Perſon is about to enter into the State of Marriage; [and may ſerve for any other new Condition of Life.]

O Lord, the Guide and Director, the Helper and Comforter of all thoſe that ſeek thee, and depend upon thee with their whole Heart; in a ſerious Senſe, that nothing can make me happy without thy Love, Favour, and Bleſſing, I humbly caſt down myſelf before thy Divine Majeſty, imploring thy gracious Preſence with me, to inſtruct, govern, and aſſiſt me in that Condition, into which, under the Conduct and Protection of thy good Providence, I am about to enter.

Great and many have been thy Mercies towards me hitherto, ever ſince I was taken by thee out of my Mother's Womb. Thou haſt nouriſhed and cloathed me; thou haſt brought me up to ſome Knowledge of thee, and of the

Duty I owe thee; thou haſt ſhewn me the Path of Life, and prevented me early with thy Grace, to diſpoſe my Heart to walk in it. And though I have not made, I moſt ſorrowfully confeſs, ſuch Returns unto thee as I ought to have done, yet it is ſome Comfort to me, to feel my Heart inclined and reſolved to be more thankful and dutiful hereafter, and to paſs the remaining Part of my Sojourning here in thy Fear and Love, and ſtedfaſt Obedience.

Pardon me therefore, O moſt merciful Father, according to thy Promiſes made in Chriſt Jeſus to penitent Sinners; and vouchſafe me the Grace of thy Holy Spirit, to lead me to a clear and full underſtanding of all the Duties that belong to the State and Relations in which I have now choſen to ſerve thee. Endue me with a ſincere and hearty Affection to them, and enable me carefully to perform them with a willing Mind, and a chearful unwearied Spirit, as long as thou thinkeſt fit to continue me in that Condition of Life. Bleſs me with a wiſe and obſervant Heart, to diſcern and mark the Nature and Diſpoſitions of thoſe to whom I ſhall be joined in any Bonds of Love or Duty; that I may delight to pleaſe them to the utmoſt of my Power, and ſtudy their Content and Satisfaction, and bear with their Infirmities, and chooſe the fitteſt Opportunities to do them Good, and amend what is amiſs in them.

Free

Free us all, who ſhall ſtand related to each other, from all Peeviſhneſs and unreaſonable Paſſions; let no Miſtake or cauſeleſs Jealouſly ſpoil the Entireneſs of our Affection; endue us with great Purity of Heart, and a chaſte Converſation; and beſtow upon us ſuch meek, ſweet, and compliant Diſpoſitions, that this may not prove a State of Temptation and Sorrow, but all Godlineſs and Holineſs, to our mutual Joy and Happineſs.

Make us ever mindful of the Covenant wherein we ſtand engaged to each other; eſpecially of that ſacred Vow wherein we ſtand bound to thee, by our being baptized into the Name of Jeſus Chriſt, that we may faithfully keep and perform it. Tie us ſo faſt together in Unity of Spirit, that we may have the ſame common Cares, and bear one another's Burdens, and endeavour to increaſe each other's Joys, and lighten each other's Sorrows; and in all the Changes and Alterations of our Condition, we may religiouſly preſerve an immutable Love unto, and Delight in each other, to the End of our Days.

Eſpecially help us to ſtir up one another to the Love of thee, and our bleſſed Saviour; and to do all good Offices to our Neighbours; that after we have enjoyed the Comfort of a ſweet Society, and been a Bleſſing to all that are near unto us, we may finally part in Peace, and reſt in a good Hope to dwell together for ever in

happy

happy Friendſhip with thee, and with our Lord, and all the holy Ones. *Amen, Amen.*

A Prayer of Parents for their Children, when they are grown up to ſome Underſtanding.

WE humbly worſhip thy glorious Majeſty, O Lord moſt high; we acknowledge thy infinite Goodneſs, that thou art pleaſed to give us Leave to call thee Father, who art the Poſſeſſor of Heaven and of Earth. We thank thee for thy moſt tender Care over us ever ſince we were born: More eſpecially for the Knowledge thou haſt given us of thy great Love in Jeſus Chriſt; and that thou haſt ſo timely prevented us with thy Grace, and inclined our Hearts to thy Fear, and Love, and Service.

Vouchſafe, we beſeech thee, O moſt merciful Father, to take our Children alſo (which we have already dedicated unto thee, and commended to thy Care) into the Protection and Guidance of the ſame gracious Providence which hath been ſo watchful over us. Thou knoweſt the great Weakneſs of our Nature; how fooliſh and inconſiderate we are (eſpecially in our younger Years) how violent in our Paſſions; how apt to liſten to Temptations, and eaſy to be ſeduced by them; how ready to flatter and abuſe ourſelves with vain Hopes; and how

how unwilling to believe what is contrary to our Defires. And therefore we the more earneſtly implore thy Bleſſing upon our Endeavours, to ſeaſon their Minds betime with a religious Senſe of thee their Creator, and of their Duty which they owe thee, and of that Good in which their true Happineſs lies.

And we beſeech thee likewiſe to excite our Hearts to the greater Diligence, Thoughtfulneſs, and Care, to imitate thy Fatherly Love towards ourſelves, by watching over them to do them Good, and to train them up in thy Fear. Endue us with Wiſdom and Prudence, to give them wholeſome and ſeaſonable Inſtructions, and diſpoſe their Hearts to receive and remember them. Help us to govern exactly all our Affections and Paſſions, that we may neither embolden them to do any Thing that is Evil, by too much Indulgence, nor diſcourage them in their Duty by too much Severity; but be Examples of Godlineſs and Virtue to them, by a ſober, grave, gentle, humble and devout Behaviour and Converſation.

Work in them a great Reverence to all their Governors, Teachers, and ſpiritual Paſtors, and bleſs their godly Admonitions to them, that they may follow and obey them. Direct us alſo in the Choice of fit Perſons to aſſiſt us in their Education, and in the Choice of fit Employments for them, whereby they may prove uſeful and profitable Members of Church and State.

Bleſſed

Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, that they have eſcaped the Dangers of Infancy and Childhood. Good Lord, preſerve them from all the Evil and Miſchief to which the Raſhneſs and Indiſcretion of Youth may betray them, and fortify their Minds againſt the Power of all Allurements to Sin, that we may live to ſee them thy dutiful and obedient Children, and may leave the World in Hope that they will continue ſo unto their Lives End.

Or if thou takeſt us away before they come to their full Age, we commend them with the more ardent Affection to thy never-failing Mercy and Compaſſion. O thou, who art *the Father of the Fatherleſs*, be their God, and let them *find Mercy with thee*[z], according to thy Word. Diſpoſe of them ſo, that by loving and careful Governors, holy Examples, innocent and good Company, pious and diſcreet Counſels, with the Help of thy Divine Grace, they may ever be ſecured in their Duty, and follow after us to eternal Life, through Chriſt Jeſus. *Amen.*

A ſhort Prayer for the Uſe of a little Child.

O Lord, my moſt loving Saviour and merciful Redeemer, who commandedſt that the little Children ſhould come unto thee, and didſt

[z] Pſal. lxviii. 5. Hoſ. xiv. 3.

take

take them up in thy Arms, lay thy Hands upon them, and bleſs them; look graciouſly upon me, I humbly beſeech thee, and bleſs me, who am one of thy Children, dedicated to thy Service. Pity the Weakneſs of my tender Age, and prevent me betimes with thy Grace. Make me ſeriouſly to remember my Creator in the Days of my Youth. Endue me with the Fear of my God, and make me always mindful of the Vow and Promiſe that was made in my Name, when I was baptized, *to forſake the Devil and all his Works, to believe in God, and to ſerve him.*

Make me dutiful (as thou, O Lord Jeſus, waſt) unto my Parents [*loving to my Brethren and Siſters*] obedient to my Inſtructors; thankful for the good Counſel of my Friends; humble and reverent to my Betters, and meek and gentle to all Men: That as I grow in Years, ſo I may grow in Wiſdom and Favour with thee, and with all thoſe who are good.

Preſerve me from all Dangers; let thy good Angels be my Keepers and Defenders; and guide me by thy Holy Spirit, that the longer I live the better I may be, to the Comfort of my Parents, the Honour and Glory of my God, and my own Happineſs here, and for ever. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

A Shorter

A Shorter.

HEavenly Father, who despisest nothing that thou hast made, but takest Care of the Beast of the Earth, and of the Fowls of the Air, bless me thy Child, whom thou hast made in thy Image, and adopted for thy own by thy Grace in Christ. Preserve me this Day from all Evil, both in Soul and Body; give me what thou seest good for me; especially an Heart to know thee early, to be thankful to thee, to love thee, and to do thy Will, as well as I am able. Bless my Father and my Mother, and all my Friends, and make me a Follower of those who are good, for the Sake of my Saviour, Christ Jesus the Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

A Prayer for the Use of a Child that hath lost its Parents.

O Lord, who never failest those that seek thee, but *givest to the Beast his Food, and to the young Ravens which cry*[h], I cast myself upon thy infinite Goodness, with whom the Fatherless have been wont to find Mercy. Be thou, *O Lord, Father and God of my Life*[i], a most merciful and gracious Father unto me, and provide

[h] Psal. cxlvii. 9. [i] Eccles xxiii. 4.

what

what thou ſeeſt in thy Wiſdom to be neceſſary for me.

Eſpecially, beſtow upon me ſome faithful Friend that will admoniſh me, and take Care of my Soul, to bring me up religiouſly in the Fear of thee my God. Preſerve me from all Diſtruſt of thy good Providence: Give me Favour in the Eyes of others, by an humble, ſubmiſſive, and good Behaviour towards them. Make me diligent and induſtrious in ſome honeſt Calling, and bleſs my Labours and Endeavours, that I may not be a Burden unto others; but whatſoever my Portion be in this World, give me Grace to live ſo piouſly, juſtly, and ſoberly, that I may not miſs of that *incorruptable Inheritance, which fadeth not away, reſerved in the Heavens for us*[k], through Chriſt Jeſus. *Amen.*

A Prayer *to be uſed by a* Widow.

O God, by whoſe wiſe Providence, which I humbly adore and reverence, I am left without my deareſt Companion and Guide in this our Pilgrimage, and thereby deprived of the ſweeteſt Comfort of Life, behold the deſolate and ſorrowful Eſtate of thy poor Handmaid, who ſupplicates thy tender Mercy and Compaſſion towards her. Comfort me, good

[k] 1 Pet. i. 4.

Lord,

Lord, with a delightful Senſe of thy Divine Preſence with me, and draw my Heart the nearer to thee in holy Love and devout Affection, and a lively Hope that thou wilt never leave me nor forſake me.

I ought to thank thee at all Times, for the many Tokens of thy Love towards me; and particularly for lending me this Bleſſing ſo long, the Value of which I now feel, by the Want I am in of its Support. Pardon me, I beſeech thee, that I have not been ſo thankful for it, and the reſt of thy Mercies, as I ought; nor ſo carefully improved them as I might have done. *O take not away thy Loving-kindneſs from me in Diſpleaſure*, but vouchſafe ſtill the Continuance of thy Favour towards me; eſpecially the Support of thy Divine Grace, by the Power of the Holy Ghoſt, to enable me to bear this Affliction with an humble, meek, and patient Spirit.

Moderate all my Paſſions; free me from all diſcontented and diſtruſtful Thoughts; help me to caſt all my Care on thee, *who relieveſt the Fatherleſs and Widow, and careſt even for the Stranger*[1]. Fix my Mind upon thy Love in the Lord Jeſus, in whom thou wouldeſt have us to *rejoice always*. Lift up my Thoughts to thoſe heavenly Enjoyments in that bleſſed Place where he is [*to which I hope my Huſband is departed.*] And help me to follow after him with all Diligence, in a pure, grave, and godly Converſation, and by a careful Education of my Chil-

[1] Pſal. cxlvi. 9.

dren,

dren, to endeavour that they may be alſo with us in that Glory.

Let thy Bleſſing ever reſt upon them. And now that they are left to me alone, give me ſo much the more Wiſdom to inſtruct and govern them aright, and ſo much the more Love to them, and tender Affection to their Good and Welfare. Make them to be a Comfort for me in my Widowhood, by their Increaſe in Godlineſs, that we may chearfully ſerve thee together in Prayers and Thankſgivings, and reading of thy holy Word, and Communion with our bleſſed Saviour, and all other Acts of a Chriſtian Life. Prepare us for whatſoever Condition it is into which thou ſhalt be pleaſed to bring us; that neither Fulneſs nor Poverty, Honour nor Reproaches, Health nor Sickneſs, may ever ſeparate us from thy Love in Chriſt Jeſus, but we may perſevere in patient Obedience to thee, till we receive the Crown of Life which he hath promiſed to them that love thee. *Amen.*

A Prayer *for the* Use *of a poor* Servant.

O Lord moſt high, who art the *Maker of the Rich and of the Poor*[m], with whom there is no Reſpect of Perſons; look graciouſly upon me, I humbly beſeech thee, who here caſt down myſelf before thee, acknowledging thy

[m] Prov. xvii. 2.

ſovereign

ſovereign Power over all, and thy wiſe Providence, which hath diſpoſed all Things unto ſeveral Ranks and Orders, for their mutual Help and Benefit. I humbly ſubmit to the State and Condition wherein thou haſt been pleaſed to place me, below many others. I thank thee that I live, and that I live in Health, and have Strength of Body (great and invaluable Bleſſings!) and that I have ſo much Liberty as to make my Requeſts unto thee, and acknowledge thy Mercies, and that I have any Hope thou wilt never ceaſe to do me Good, till thou haſt crowned all thy Mercies in eternal Life. Good Lord, pardon me, if I have at any Time murmured and repined at my Condition, or envied the higher Eſtate of other Perſons. Pardon all my other Offences, whatſoever they have been, and vouchſafe but to deliver me from the Bondage of Sin, and to make me a Servant of Righteouſneſs, and I ſhall not only be contented, but perpetually rejoice in thy Salvation.

Endue me with a right Underſtanding of my Duty in this Relation wherein I ſtand, that, according to thy Command, I may account thoſe whom I ſerve *worthy of all Honour*, being careful *to pleaſe them in all Things, never contradicting nor purloining; but ſhewing all good Fidelity, and with good Will and Singleneſs of Heart doing ſervice, as to the Lord, and not to Men*[a]. Help me to demean myſelf ſo humbly, and

[a] 1 Tim. vi. 1. Tit. ii. 9, 10. Eph. vi. 5, 7.

what-

whatſoever I do, to do it ſo heartily[o], that I may obtain Favour in their Eyes. Or if they be froward and hard to pleaſe, O God, preſerve me from all unſeemly Paſſions and diſreſpectful Behaviour towards them; and make me ſo much the more diligent in their Buſineſs, remembring that *I ſerve the Lord Chriſt*, from whom I expect to *receive the Reward of the Inheritance*[p].

If thou art pleaſed any other Way to afflict me with Sickneſs or Pains in my Body, which may hinder my Labour, and caſt me into Poverty, Lord, ſtill ſtrengthen my Faith and Confidence in thee, and help me to bear it with a patient Mind, looking unto Jeſus, who took upon him the Form of a Servant, and became poor, and ſuffered much for our Sakes; but now is therefore highly exalted, to ſuccour and comfort all thoſe that follow after him contentedly in Well-doing: In his Name and Words I commend myſelf unto thy Mercy, ſaying, *Our Father*, &c.

A Countryman's PRAYER *for fruitful Seaſons.*

O God, the Creator and Preſerver of all Things, who *cauſeth the Graſs to grow for the Cattle, and Herb for the Service of Man, who bringeſt forth Food out of the Earth, and bleſſeſt*

[o] Col. ii. 23, 25. [p] Col. iii. 23, 25.

the

the ſpringing thereof [q], be pleaſed graciouſly to look down from thy holy Habitation, from Heaven, upon us thy People, and upon the Land wherein we dwell, that it may both become fruitful, and yield its Increaſe, and we alſo may grow in all Wiſdom and Goodneſs, and bring forth plenteouſly the Fruit of good Works, to the Honour and Praiſe of thy Name, and to our perpetual Comfort, both in this World and in the World to come, through Chriſt Jeſus our Saviour. *Amen.*

A Prayer *when the Weather is unſeaſonable.*

O God, who for our Unthankfulneſs and Abuſe of thy Bleſſings, art juſtly diſpleaſed at us, and doſt now puniſh us [*with the Want of the Showers of Heaven* [r]] whereby we are in Danger to loſe the Labour of our Hands, be pleaſed to accept of our unfeigned Repentance, and mercifully to forgive the Sins of thy People.

Viſit the Earth again, and water it; make it ſoft with Showers, and let the Clouds drop Fatneſs on it; or, [s] *let not the Floods of Water overflow us, nor the Seed be rotten under the Clod* [t]; but as the Fields now languiſh, *and Joy is withered away from the Sons of Men* [u], ſo let thy

[q] Pſal. civ. 14. lxv. 10. Deut. xxvi. 15. [r] Or, *with immoderate Showers.* [s] *In a Time of immoderate Rain.* [t] Joel. iii. 17. i. 12. [u] Pſal. civ. 30.

Goodneſs

Goodneſs *renew the Face of the Earth*, and make the Paſtures and the Fields *to ſhout for Joy, and ſing*.

Lord, hear the Cry of the Poor and Needy. Let it ſuffice that *we eat our Bread in the Sweat of our Brows*[x]; but do not puniſh us with Scarcity of Bread, which is the Staff and Support of our Life. Have Pity upon our perpetual Labour and Toil, and let us reap the Fruit of it, for Jeſus Chriſt his Sake, who *was made a Curſe for us*[y], that we might inherit a Bleſſing; to him, with thee, O Father of Mercies, and the Holy Ghoſt, be all Honour, Glory, and Praiſe, both now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Thanksgiving *after a good Harveſt.*

WE praiſe thee, O God, who haſt *opened unto us thy good Treaſure, and given us Rain from Heaven, and fruitful Seaſons, filling our Hearts with Food and Gladneſs*[z]. Bleſſed be God, for the Plenty wherewith he hath loaded the Earth, and for the fair Weather he hath ſent us, that we might gather it into our Barns.

He maketh the Graſs to grow upon the Mountains: He giveth to the Beaſt his Food; and he filleth us with the fineſt of the Wheat. He watereth the Earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud,

[x] Gal. iii. 19. [y] Gal. iii. 13. [z] Deut. xviii. 12. Acts xiv. 17.

that

that it may give Seed to the Sower, and Bread to the Eater[a].

To him therefore be the Praiſe, for theſe and all other his Benefits. Let all the World rejoice and be glad in him, *who prepares a Table for us, and ſatisfies our Mouths with good Things and makes our Cup to run over.* O that our Hearts may even overflow with Love and Thankfulneſs to him. O that we may never forget, nor abuſe his Goodneſs, but by a ſober, charitable, and pious Uſe of theſe his Bleſſings, we may be made fit for the continual Increaſe of them, till they all conclude in eternal Life; which I moſt humbly crave, for the Sake of Chriſt Jeſus, our bleſſed Lord and Saviour; to whom with the Father and the Holy Ghoſt (from whoſe bounteous Love we receive all good Things) be all Honour and Praiſe, and hearty Obedience, both now and evermore. *Amen.*

A Prayer *for a Judge, or other Magiſtrate.*

O God, the ſupreme Lord and Governor of the World, *who haſt made all Things with thy Word, and ordained Man through thy Wiſdom, that he ſhould have Dominion over thy Creatures, and order the World according to Equity and Righteouſneſs, and execute Judgment with an up-*

[a] Pſal. cxlvii. 8. ix. 14. Iſa. lv. 10.

right

right Heart; thou haſt choſen me to be a Miniſter of thy Kingdom, and a Judge of thy Sons and thy Daughters [b]. But who is fit of himſelf alone to diſcharge ſo great a Truſt? *Though a Man be never ſo perfect, yet if thy Wiſdom be not with him, he ſhall be nothing regarded.*

I therefore humbly addreſs myſelf to thee, the Father of Light, the Fountain of every good Gift, *by whom Princes rule, and Nobles, and all Judges of the Earth* [c], that thou wilt beſtow upon me a right underſtanding Spirit, to enable me always to diſcern exactly between Good and Evil, and to pronounce a righteous Sentence in the moſt perplexed Caſes.

More eſpecially, I beſeech thee to endue me with ſuch an honeſt and upright Mind, that nothing in the World may ever tempt me from my Integrity. O that mine Eyes may never be blinded by Gifts, nor mine Heart turn aſide to follow after Rewards. Let no Love towards Friends, or Hatred towards Enemies; no Fear of thoſe who are mighty, or Deſire of popular Applauſe, in the leaſt corrupt my Judgment to decree unrighteouſly; but remembring thine all-ſeeing Eye, who *ſtandeſt in the Congregation of the Mighty, and judgeſt among the Gods*, I may always proceed uprightly, and regard the Perſon of no Man in Judgment.

Preſerve in me, O God, this pious Reſolution, by preſerving in me a conſtant Senſe, that thou art higher than the higheſt, and wilt *judge*

[b] Wiſd. ix. 1, 2, 3, &c. [c] Prov. viii. 16.

all Men, without any Reſpect of Perſons, according to their Works. O that I may ever have the Heart to diſpenſe Juſtice unto others with ſuch Impartiality as I expect to find myſelf, when I appear before thy dreadful Tribunal.

Fill me with Zeal and Courage to puniſh Vice and Wickedneſs, though never ſo bold, and befriended; and to defend and maintain thy true Religion and Godlineſs, though never ſo much diſcountenanced and deſerted; that being true and faithful to the Truſt thou haſt repoſed in me, I may receive a favourable Sentence from thy Majeſty, when thou ſhalt come to judge the World in Righteouſneſs, by that great Lord, whom thou haſt ordained, Chriſt Jeſus the righteous; to whom with thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghoſt, one eternal only wiſe God, *be Glory and Majeſty, Dominion and Power, both now and for ever.* Amen.

A Prayer *of a poor Priſoner for Debt.*

O God, who art preſent to us in all Places, and haſt Regard to the Sighs and Groans of the Miſerable, who humbly implore thy Pity and Compaſſion towards them, vouchſafe to look graciouſly upon thy afflicted Servant in this Place, which is moſt deſolate and comfortleſs, unleſs the Light of thy Countenance ſhine upon me. I confeſs, that I have too much

much abuſed the Liberty which I formerly enjoyed, and did not ſo carefully improve, as I ought to have done, thoſe happy Opportunities which therewith were put into my Hands. Many Ways I am ſenſible I have offended thy Divine Majeſty, [d] for which I am heartily ſorry, and acknowledge myſelf infinitely indebted to thy Goodneſs, that I am not plunged into the Depth of Miſery, to bewail my Sins in the bottomleſs Pit.

I thank thee, O Lord, with all my Soul, that I am not ſhut up in the Place of outer Darkneſs, and that I have any Hope to obtain the Benefit of the Redemption which is in Chriſt Jeſus; in whoſe Name I beſeech thee to pardon me, and likewiſe to ſanctify theſe Straits wherein I lie, to the freeing my Soul from the Bond of all Iniquity, and the reſtoring me to the glorious Liberty of thy Children. Help me ſeriouſly to follow the Direction of thy Providence in this Reſtraint; and now that I am ſo much alone by myſelf, to deſcend into my own Heart, to ſearch and try my Ways, and unfeignedly to turn to thee, my God.

Enlarge my Spirit more than ever, now that my Body is confined, in fervent Prayer for thy Divine Grace, and in chearful Thankſgivings for the innumerable Benefits that I have received from thy Bounty, and in tender Pity and Commiſeration of the ſad Condition of all diſtreſſed People. And be pleaſed to touch the

[d] *Here acknowledge the Particulars.*

Hearts of my Creditors alſo, with a Senſe of my Miſeries; incline them to accept of what I am able to pay, and make me willing conſcientiouſly to ſatisfy them to the utmoſt of my Power.

In the mean Time beſtow upon me the Bleſſing of a contented Spirit. Help me patiently to endure the Inconveniences of this Place, and preſerve me from the Danger of all the Temptations which I meet with in it; eſpecially from ſeeking a Remedy for my Sorrows in the Pleaſures of Intemperance, or evil Company, or any profane Mirth whatſoever. Be thou my Comfort, O God, my exceeding Joy, and the full Satisfaction of my Soul in all Conditions.

And when thou art pleaſed to deliver me from this Place, and reſtore me again to my deſired Freedom, O Lord, make me ever mindful of the Vows wherein I am now forward to bind myſelf. Diſpoſe my Heart then to be ſo ſenſibly affected with the leaſt of thoſe Mercies which I formerly have little regarded, that I may never forget to praiſe thee, even for the Benefit of ſweeter Air than now I enjoy, and to acknowledge thee in the Night-ſeaſon upon my Bed, and to thank thee for the coarſeſt Food; and eſpecially that I may rejoice to go again into the great Congregation, to praiſe thee with moſt ardent Love, for all ſpiritual Bleſſings in Chriſt Jeſus.

Preſerve in me alſo a grateful Remembrance of the Kindneſs of my Friends and Neighbours,

bours, especially of those Persons to whom I stand particularly indebted, when by their Charity I shall be released. And whatsoever Loss they sustain by my Poverty, good Lord, make it up abundantly to them and theirs, out of thy rich Grace and Mercy. Requite their Love with Plenty and Prosperity in this World, and give them the Reward of eternal Life and Glory in the World to come, through Christ Jesus. *Amen.*

A Prayer *of a great Malefactor in Prison.*

O Most holy and righteous Judge of the whole World, give a sinful and miserable Wretch Leave to prostrate himself before the Throne of thy Grace, and implore that Mercy which formerly I have despised, or abused. I am not worthy, I confess, to lift up mine Eyes towards Heaven, and it becomes me in the greatest Dejection of Spirit to sigh and groan under the Load of my Sins, which have been so great and many, so bold, so presumptuous and shameless, that when with an awakened Mind I reflect upon them, I am ready to sink into Hell, and utterly despair of any Mercy.

O God, *How have I hated Instruction, and my Hearted despised Reproof! and have not obeyed the Voice of my Teachers, nor inclined my Ear to them that admonished me*[c]! How swift have my Feet

[c] Prov. v. 12, 13.

been to run into Evil! and how backward and averſe have I been to any Thing that is Good! O the Injuries which I have done my Neighbours! the Abuſe of myſelf, and of thy good Creatures! The profane Contempt or Neglect of thee, and the Duties of thy Worſhip and Service! [f] The Remembrance of all this is dreadful, the Burthen of it is intolerable.

How ſhall I appear before thee, at whoſe Rebuke the Mountains quake, ſince I cannot think of appearing before an earthly Judge without Shame and Affrightment of Spirit! O Lord, work in me a greater Dread of thee, with a greater Shame and Confuſion of Face, now that I am in thy Preſence. For which End, be pleaſed to repreſent unto me effectally the Wickedneſs, the Baſeneſs and Vileneſs of all my evil Doings, as well as the Guilt and juſt Deſert of them. O that I could hate and abhor them more than that Death [g], which I expect ſhortly to ſuffer for them! Beſtow on me that ingenuous and godly Sorrow which worketh Repentance, and unfeigned Purpoſes of Amendment of Life. They come too late indeed, I may juſtly think, to find Acceptance with thee; and therefore not without Fear and Trembling, and a great Senſe of my Undeſervings, I look upon thee, acknowledging thy infinite Good-

[f] *Here let him reckon up the Blaſphemy, Debauchery, and Violence that he hath been guilty of.* [g] *Or Puniſhment when the Crime is leſs.*

neſs,

neſs, if thou wilt vouchſafe but the ſmalleſt Hope of Mercy.

Mercy, Mercy, good Lord! caſt me not quite out of thy Sight, for Jeſus Chriſt his Sake, who gave himſelf for us, to redeem us from all Iniquity. It is the Beginning of ſome Mercy, and an Earneſt, I hope, of more, that thou haſt made me ſenſible of mine Offences, and that thou haſt wrought in me a Reſolution to forſake them, and ſome Love to a godly, ſober, and righteous Life. Help me to manifeſt the Sincerity and Uprightneſs of my Soul in theſe Reſolutions, as much as I am able, by giving thee hearty Thanks, that the Hand of Juſtice hath overtaken and laid hold upon me, and put a Stop to the farther Miſchief which I might have committed, by making a free and open Confeſſion of my Crimes, and taking the Shame which belongs to me before others, and by acknowledging that I am unworthy to live; and by earneſt Admoniſhments to all, to be warned by my Example, and to ceaſe betimes to do evil, and learn to do well.

O God, that I could glorify thee a little in my latter End after this manner, and till I come to receive my deſerved Puniſhment, help me to ſpend my Time in bewailing my Sins; in humbling myſelf before thee for them; in ſetting my Heart againſt them; in ſtudying and admiring with the greateſt Affection, the holy Life of the Lord Jeſus; in calling other Offenders to Repentance, and exhorting them

thereby to give thee Glory. Deny me not the Grace, I beſeech thee, to enable me thus to employ myſelf, that I may have ſome Taſte of thy Mercy, and the Fear of Death may be abated by ſome Hope, that when my Soul ſhall be parted from the Body, thou, O bleſſed Jeſus, wilt receive it, though ſo unworthy, into ſome of thy heavenly Manſions. *Amen, Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

A Soldier's Prayer that fights for his Country.

O Moſt mighty Lord, the Fountain of Life, and Strength, and Courage, whom all the Hoſt of Heaven continually obeys, I proſtrate myſelf before thee in a religious Senſe, that the Fear of thy Divine Majeſty, a pure Conſcience, and a ſtrong Hope and Confidence in thy Omnipotent Goodneſs will give the moſt aſſured Reſolution, Valour, and Boldneſs to our Spirits in all Dangers; moſt humbly beſeeching thee to purge my Heart from the Love of every Thing that is offenſive to thee; to pardon all my former Sins, Negligences, and Ignorances, and to endue me with the Grace of thy Holy Spirit, ſtrictly to amend and reform my Life according thy holy Word.

Many Temptations, I am ſenſible, will continually aſſault me in this State of Life wherein I am

I am engaged; but I earneſtly beſeech thee to defend me from the Power of them, as I deſire to be defended from Death, and to be covered by thee in the Day of Battle. O that no covetous Deſires, or Greedineſs of Spoil, no Ambition or Vain-glory, no Hatred or Malice, may puſh me forward into any Enterprize; but give me the Victory over theſe, and all other vile Affections and Paſſions, before I meet with any other Enemy.

And graciouſly bleſs and proſper our Arms for the Defence of our Country, and the Preſervation of our Religion, Government, Laws, and Liberties. And whilſt we fight for the Preſervation of good Order, Lord, give us all Grace to be Examples of it ourſelves; that abhorring all Blaſphemy and Prophaneneſs, all Riot and Laſciviouſneſs, and *doing Violence to no Man, accuſing no Man falſly, and being content with our Wages* [h], we may adorn both our Cauſe and our Religion; and whatſoever the Iſſue be, we may have Peace in our own Hearts, and living or dying may be accepted with thee, through Chriſt Jeſus, the Prince of Peace; to whom, *&c. Amen.*

[h] Luke iii. 14.

A Prayer

A Prayer *for the Uſe of one that is aged.*

I Adore thee, O Lord of Life and Glory, who art from everlaſting to everlaſting, and changeſt not; beſeeching thee to look graciouſly upon thy unworthy Servant, whoſe Hope is only in thy infinite Mercy; by which my Life hath been prolonged to old Age, and which is able to make me eternally bleſſed. I thank thee for thy inconceivable Love in the Lord Jeſus, who hath given me ſuch a ſolid and ſtedfaſt Ground of Hope to ſupport and ſtrengthen my Heart, when all the Comforts of this Life fail me; and likewiſe praiſe and magnify thy bounteous Goodneſs for thoſe innumerable Bleſſings which Time after Time, thou haſt beſtowed upon me, from the Beginning of my Life till this preſent[1].

O my God, help me always to ſolace myſelf, now that the Days are come wherein I have no Pleaſure, with a perpetual Remembrance of all thy paſt loving Kindneſſes to me; and with thoſe Hopes which I have of thy endleſs Love in the other World. And the more my outward Senſes decay, vouchſafe me the more quicker and more lively Senſe in my Heart of thoſe good Things which thou haſt laid up there for thoſe that fear thee.

Preſerve me from all diſcontented Thoughts, and peeviſh Paſſions; make me an Example

[1] *Let them be reckoned up as particularly as you can.*

unto

unto others of *Holineſs*, *Diſcretion*, *Temperance*, *Gravity*, *Peaceableneſs*, *and Patience*[k], that ſo I may with the more Authority be *a Teacher of good Things*, and *my hoary Head may be a Crown of Glory*, *being found in the Ways of Righteouſneſs. O how comely a Thing is Judgment for grey Hairs, and for ancient Men to know Counſel*[l]! Pardon me, good Lord, that I have made no better Improvement of my Time and Experience, for the furniſhing my Mind with this Wiſdom, and with thoſe Virtues. Pardon all my Negligences, and all my Offences[m], and fill my Heart with a comfortable Senſe of thy pardoning Mercy in Chriſt Jeſus, that having no other Burden but that of Age to oppreſs my Spirit, I may rejoice in thee as long as I live, and at laſt lay myſelf down to reſt in Peace, and return my Soul back unto thee chearfully, whenſoever thou calleſt for it, in ſure and certain Hope of the Reſurrection of the Dead, and of that Glory, Honour, and Immortality which thou haſt graciouſly promiſed us by thy dear Son, my moſt bleſſed Lord and Saviour Chriſt Jeſus, with whom I deſire to live to give thee eternal Praiſes. *Amen.*

[k] Tit. ii. 2, 3. [l] Prov. xvi. 31. Eccl. xxv. 4.
[m] *Remember them particularly.*

A LARGE

FORM of DEVOTION.

When any Perſon is diſpoſed to ſpend a Day, or Part of it, in Devotion, the uſual Addreſſes to God in the Morning may be continued in this Manner.

O Moſt high and holy one, who inhabiteſt Eternity, and art God over all, moſt bleſſed for evermore, happy are they who ſtand continually in thy Preſence, and are always admiring, praiſing, loving, and obeying thee, and rejoicing in thy Love and Favour towards them! The higheſt Angels can deſire no greater Bliſs, than to be thus knit unto thee, and to live in ſuch conſtant Union and Friendſhip with thee: An Happineſs, I am ſenſible, that is above our Reach, who dwell in Houſes of Clay, and groan under the Burthen of this Fleſh; but which we aſpire towards, and our uncloathed Spirits hope for in the other World. And bleſſed be thy infinite Goodneſs, we are encouraged by Chriſt Jeſus to look up unto thee, for the Beginning and Taſte of this Happineſs, whilſt we remain here below at this great Diſtance from the Throne of thy Glory.

And

And accordingly I humbly proſtrate myſelf before thee at this Time, beſeeching thee in the Name of my dear Saviour, who gave himſelf for me, that thou wilt graciouſly vouchſafe to inſpire me with ſuch delightful Thoughts of thee, and ſuch a transforming Love unto thee, as may fill my Heart with unſpeakable Joy and Satisfaction, whilſt I am in thy Preſence, to admire and adore thee; to praiſe thy incomprehenſible Perfections; to acknowledge with all Humility my entire Dependance on thee; thankfully to remember all the Benefits thou haſt done unto me; ſorrowfully to bewail my ungrateful Behaviour towards thee; moſt earneſtly to deprecate thy Diſpleaſure; to implore thy Grace and Favour, and to make an abſolute Surrender of myſelf to thee, with moſt hearty Devotion to thy Service.

It is the unfeigned Deſire of my Soul to ſpend ſome Time in attending wholly to theſe Duties, the better to diſpoſe me to ſerve thee in the reſt of my Life. But alas! O Lord, what am I, or what can I do, unleſs thou wilt make thyſelf preſent to me, and ſend down thy holy Spirit upon me? My Thoughts and Affections are exceeding dull and heavy; and they will ſoon flag and grow weary, unleſs thou wilt be pleaſed by thy Almighty Power to raiſe and bear them up towards Heaven. I moſt humbly therefore again beſeech thee, in thy infinite Mercy, to touch my Heart with ſuch a lively Senſe of thy Divine Majeſty, as may fix my wandring

Thoughts,

Thoughts, and compoſe my tumultuous Affections, and ſtir up my flat and cold Deſires, and may make me feel the Power, and taſte the Sweetneſs of every divine Truth, whilſt I read or meditate in thy holy Word, and whilſt I pray to thee, and praiſe thee, and bleſs thy holy Name.

O that all other Things may be ſhut out of my Soul, and that I may be ſo alone with thee, as to be more apprehenſive of thy Greatneſs, and of thy Goodneſs, and of thy Purity, and of my near Relation to thee, and the innumerable Obligations which I lie under to be thine entirely! O that nothing may be ſo bitter to me, as to think that I have in the leaſt offended thee! and that nothing may be ſo marvellous in my Eyes, as thy exceeding abundant Love in the Lord Jeſus, by whom thou haſt encouraged Sinners to place their Faith and Hope in thee!

Help me, O my God, through that new and living Way which he hath conſecrated, to draw nigh unto thee, and to throw down myſelf at thy Feet, waiting for a gracious Look from thee, reſigning my Will to thee, ſtrongly uniting it in hearty Affection to thy holy Will, and reſolving never to riſe up any more in Oppoſition to it, but to live in thy Love, and in ſincere Obedience to all thy Commands.

So ſhall my Soul bleſs thee as long as I live: I will alway be ſpeaking Good of thy Name, and

and will *ſhew forth thy Praiſe*, as well as I am able, *to all Generations.* Amen.

After this ſhort Addreſs to God for his Aſſiſtance, conſider a while who it is to whom you have begun to ſpeak. Caſt your Eyes upon the Heaven and the Earth, and think of the Glory of that Majeſty which fills all Things, and cannot be contained in any. Then labour to affect your Heart with your own mean, vile, and ſinful Condition: For which End examine what particular Sins you have been guilty of. Set them down in Writing before your Eyes, that they may be confeſſed and lamented: And likewiſe conſider in the ſame Manner, what particular Bleſſings you have received, that they may be moſt thankfully acknowledged. In all which you may aſſiſt yourſelves, and be much excited, by reading ſome of the Pſalms *of* David, *and ſome Part of ſuch pious Books as you are acquainted withal. After which, proceed to expreſs the Senſe of your Heart to God, with the greateſt Deliberation, in the Manner following, pauſing a-while, and ruminating upon what you have ſaid, at the End of every Part thereof.*

I.

O Moſt glorious Majeſty of Heaven and Earth, upon whom all Creatures depend for Life and Breath, and all Things, I moſt thankfully,

thankfully embrace, and desire wisely and faithfully to improve this happy Leisure which thou vouchsafest me of retiring from this World, and making my Resort to thee, *the Father of Mercies, and the God of all Comfort.* Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive from me, and from the whole World, *Blessing, and Honour, and Glory, and Power*; for *thou art great, and greatly to be praised.* All the Host of Heaven continually praiseth thee, and so ought all the Church on Earth, saying, *Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, which is, which was, and which is to come. There is none holy as the Lord, for there is none besides thee. Thou art righteous in all thy Ways, and holy in all thy Works. Thou lovest Righteousness, and hatest Iniquity, and art excellent in Power and in Judgment, and in Plenty of Justice. The Earth is thine, and the Fulness thereof, the World, and they that dwell therein. The Heavens declare the Glory of God, the Firmament sheweth his Handy-work. The Sun, Moon, and Stars praise the Name of the Lord, for he commanded, and they were created. He hath also established them for ever and ever, he hath made a Decree which shall not pass. I know, O Lord, that thou canst do every Thing, and that no Thought of thine can be hindered. Whatsoever the Lord pleases, that doth he in Heaven and in Earth, in the Seas, and in all deep Places. For he is great, and*

and of great Power; his Underſtanding is infinite[n].

Praiſed be thy ſovereign Goodneſs and tender *Mercy*, which ſpreads itſelf *over all thy Works! O Lord how manifold are thy Works! in Wiſdom haſt thou made them all. And they all wait on thee, that thou mayeſt give them their Meat in due Seaſon. That thou giveſt them they gather; thou openeſt thy Hand, they are filled with Good. The Glory of the Lord ſhall endure for ever; the Lord ſhall rejoice in his Works.* Thou always waſt, and ever wilt be the moſt Holy, Powerful, Wiſe, and Good. *Thy Kingdom is an everlaſting Kingdom, and thy Dominion endureth throughout all Generations. One Generation ſhall praiſe thy Works to another, and ſhall declare thy mighty Acts.* They all paſs away like a Shadow, *but thou art the ſame, and thy Years ſhall have no End. For ever, O Lord, thy Word is ſettled in Heaven; thy Faithfulneſs is unto all Generations. While I live* therefore *will I praiſe the Lord; I will ſing Praiſes to my God, while I have any Being. I will praiſe thee, O Lord, with my whole Heart, whoſe Name is exalted above all Bleſſing and Praiſe. For we cannot know the Almighty to Perfection; his Wiſdom is unſearchable, and his Ways*

[n] 2 Cor. i. 3. Rev. v. 13. Pſal. xlviii. 1. Rev. iv. 8. 1 Sam. ii. 2. Pſal. cxlv. 17. xlv. 7. Job xxxvii. 23. Pſal. xix. 1. Job xlii. 2. Pſal. cxxxv. 6. cxlviii. 5, 6. cxlvii, 5. civ. 24, 27, 31. cxlv. 4, 13. cii. 27. cxix. 89. cxlvi. 2. cxi. 1. cxlviii. 13. Job xi. 7.

paſt

paſt finding out. His Name alone is excellent, his Glory is above the Earth and Heaven.

II.

O what high Dignity is this! that I am admitted into thy Preſence to ſpeak unto thee, the *bleſſed and only Potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, who only haſt Immortality*[o]! O how happy ought I to think myſelf, that I may draw thus nigh to thee, who dwelleſt in Light unapproachable! who art ſo happy in thy own moſt bleſſed Nature; and who, if thou doſt but open thyſelf to any Soul, and filleſt it with a great Senſe of thee, and Affection to thee, thou letteſt heavenly Joys into it, and makeſt it happy beyond Expreſſion! For Heaven cannot be ſeparated from thee; but whereſoever thou art, there is Peace and Satisfaction, Joy and Gladneſs, and unſpeakable Bliſs.

Adored be thy Divine Goodneſs, which hath made me ſo happy this Day, as to feel ſome Senſe of thee begin to ſhine in my Soul. Adored be thy Goodneſs, which encourages me ſtill to look up unto thee, that I may feel more of thee; yea, hath engaged me by innumerable Mercies to continue theſe Addreſſes to thy Divine Majeſty: *O how excellent is thy Loving-kindneſs, O God! How precious are thy Thoughts unto me! How great is the Sum of them! Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful Works which thou haſt done, and thy Thoughts which are to me-*

[o] 1 Tim. vi. 15.

ward;

ward; they cannot be reckoned up in Order to thee; if I would declare and ſpeak of them, they are more than can be numbered. By thee I was *fearfully and wonderfully made in Secret. Thou art he that took me out of my Mother's Womb, and didſt make me hope upon her Breaſts. I have been caſt upon thee ever ſince* [p], and thou haſt been my gracious God unto this Moment.

My Infancy and Childhood was attended with a very careful Providence; and thou haſt bleſſed my riper Years with a continual Health and Strength of Body and Mind, and Abundance of good Things to ſupport and refreſh me in my Pilgrimage through this World to a better Life. I never have wanted my daily Bread, even when I was not able to aſk it of thee: And thou haſt beſtowed on me many Friends and kind Benefactors, and prevented me likewiſe by a timely Grace, and ſent me many Inſtructors, that I might remember thee, my Creator, and Jeſus Chriſt my Saviour, into whoſe Family, bleſſed be thy Name, I was early adopted and aſſured of thy Fatherly Love and tender Mercy towards me. O how deeply do I ſtand indebted to thee for all thoſe by whoſe Counſels, or Sermons, or Writings, or religious Society, or godly Examples, or charitable Prayers, I have been helped forward in my Way to Heaven! Bleſſed be thy Name for all the Means whereby I have been led to the

[p] Pſal. xxxvi. 7. cxxxix. 17. xlvi. 5. xxii. 9, 10.

Knowledge

Knowledge of thy great Love in the Lord Jeſus, which paſſeth Knowledge.

For ever bleſſed be thy Name, for ſending him into the World, born of a Woman, to be a Teacher of Righteouſneſs; to go before us, and leave us a Pattern of a moſt holy Life; to die for our Sins, and to riſe again for our Juſtification, and then to aſcend into the Heavens to prepare a Place for us, where thou haſt advanced him *above all Principalities and Powers, and given him a Name above every Name, that at the Name of Jeſus every Knee ſhould bow, and every Tongue confeſs him to be the Lord, to the Glory of thee, O God the Father Almighty*[q]. I glorify thee, O heavenly Father, with all my Heart and Soul, for inſpiring thy holy Apoſtles and Prophets, and *ſhining into their Hearts, to give the Light of the Knowledge of thy Glory in the Face of Jeſus Chriſt*[r]. I thank thee for calling me to Faith in thee; for making ſuch great and precious Promiſes to encourage our Hope, and for diſpoſing me, in any Meaſure, to be an Inheritor of them. I thank thee for granting ſuch Power to our bleſſed Lord, to fulfil his Word, for making him a royal High-Prieſt, and appointing him to bleſs us here, and eternally hereafter.

Glory be to thee, O Lord moſt high, who haſt ſo often favoured me with the gracious Viſitations of thy holy Spirit, enlightning my Mind, drawing my Will towards thee, exciting

[q] Phil. iii. 10, 11. [r] 2 Cor. iv. 6.

in

in me holy Desires, working many pious Purposes and Resolutions in my Heart, giving me a Taste how gracious thou art, setting before me the Hope of eternal Life, and perswading me, by innumerable Arguments, to entertain those Blessings which I should have been forward of myself to have desired. *Who can utter the mighty Acts of the Lord! who can shew forth all his Praise*[s]! How often hast thou spared me, when I deserved to be punished! How many Dangers have I escaped! From how many Assaults of the Enemy have I been guarded! and how many of his Designs have been defeated by an invisible and unobserved Goodness, which ought for ever to be acknowledged[t]!

III.

O my God, with what Awe and Reverence ought I to make mention of thy Name, *who dwellest in Eternity, whose Throne is inestimable, whose Glory cannot be comprehended, before whom the Hosts of Angels stand with Trembling*[u]! With what Humility of Soul ought I to acknowledge thy Divine Grace, that thou who art so great, and highly exalted, wilt humble thyself to take Notice of such poor Things as we are! Thou art to be admired with our highest Thoughts; thou art to be loved with all our Heart, and

[s] Psal. cxvi. 2. [t] *Mention all the particular Mercies you can remember; and then proceed still to admire his Loving-kindness, in all those you took no Notice of, or have forgotten.* [u] Esd. viii. 20, 21.

Soul,

Soul, and Strength; we ought to render thee moſt chearful Service, and confeſs that we never ſerve ourſelves more than when we even loſe all Thought of ourſelves, and forget all Things here, in admiring, loving, praiſing, and giving Thanks to thee.

All that is within me ought to bleſs thy holy Name. O how great ought my Joy to be in thy Love, and in thy Salvation, who art *worthy to be praiſed with all pure and holy Praiſe. Therefore let thy Saints praiſe thee, with all thy Creatures: And let all thine Angels, and thine Elect praiſe thee for ever. It is good to praiſe God and exalt his Name, and with Honour to ſhew forth all his Works; therefore be not ſlack to praiſe him*[x]. Yea, to thee, O Lord, I ought to reſign myſelf with the greateſt Willingneſs of Heart, to truſt and hope in thee at all Times, to excite all others to ſhew forth thy Praiſe, and to ſtudy to glorify thee more and more, not only by my Words, but with my Body and Soul, in all the Actions of a ſober, righteous, and godly Life. I can deſire no greater Honour in this World, than that I may live to the Praiſe of the Glory of thy Grace in Chriſt Jeſus; walking worthy of thee, who haſt called me to thy Kingdom and Glory, and behaving myſelf in all Things, as becomes one that hath received ſuch Pledges of thy Love already, and looks for thy Mercy unto eternal Life.

[x] Tob. viii. 16. xii. 6.

All

All thy Laws, I know, are juſt and good. *Thy Ways are Ways of Pleaſantneſs, and all thy Paths are Peace. More to be deſired are thy Commandments than Gold, yea than much fine Gold; ſweeter alſo than Honey, and the Honeycomb: By them doth thy Servant ſhine gloriouſly, and in keeping of them there is great Reward. He that loveth them, loveth Life; he that holdeth them faſt, ſhall inherit Glory; and whereſoever they enter the Lord will bleſs. Great Peace have they that love thy Law, and nothing ſhall offend them. The Lord God is a Sun and Shield; the Lord will give Grace and Glory; no good Thing will he with-hold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of Hoſts, bleſſed is the Man that truſteth in thee*[y].

IV.

But the more, O Lord, I ſpeak in thy Praiſe, the more I am ſenſible I reproach myſelf, who hath not given thee that Honour and Glory, that Fear and Love, that hearty Service and chearful Obedience, which is due unto thee ſo many Ways. I ſtand condemned out of my own Mouth, of moſt fearful Ingratitude to thee, from whom I have received ſo many and ſuch ineſtimable Benefits. How ſeldom have I thought of them? or how little have they affected my Heart? How loath have I often been to diſpoſe myſelf to commemorate the

[y] Prov. iii. 17. Pſal. xix. 10, 11. cxix. 165. lxxxiv. 11, 12. Eccluſ iv. 12.

greateſt

greateſt Love of my deareſt Saviour? And how ſoon am I weary, even of the moſt delightful Employment of praiſing and bleſſing thee, with whom I profeſs that I deſire and hope to live for ever, and praiſe thy Name? O the Vanity of my Mind! the Looſeneſs of my Thoughts! the Inordinateneſs of my Deſires, and Unrulineſs of my Paſſions! the Diſcontent of my Spirit! the Unſtedfaſtneſs of my Reſolutions! the Breach of my Promiſes! the Coldneſs of my Prayers, and the Dulneſs of my Meditations! the Loſs of my precious Time, and the Neglect of good Opportunities! my Eagerneſs after theſe worldly Enjoyments, and feeble Endeavours after Heaven!

I am aſtoniſhed to think, that ever I ſhould diſtruſt thy Providence, who haſt been ſo tenderly careful of me; or be unthankful for thy Benefits, which are every Moment poured forth ſo plentifully upon me; or be ſo uncharitable to my Neighbours, when I ſtand in ſo great Need of Mercy myſelf, and live continually upon thy Bounty; or abuſe any of thoſe Bleſſings which thou canſt ſo eaſily deprive me of, or wholly ſpoil the Comfort of them: And yet, alas! how prone have I been to deceive myſelf with Shadows of Religion and Devotion towards thee! and to content myſelf with the Praiſes of thoſe Divine Perfections which I have not ſo zealouſly ſtudied to imitate? O how unlike am I to the humble, the meek, the pitiful, and the patient Jeſus? Yea, how inſenſible am

I of

I of his incomparable Love, which made him to lay down his Life for me? How many Ways have I injured my Neighbours, or neglected to do them Good? I am conſcious to myſelf of ſundry Offences, not only againſt the Rules of Righteouſneſs and Mercy, but of Sobriety and Goodlineſs[z]. And thou, to whom all Things paſt are preſent, who ſearcheſt the Hearts and trieſt the Reins, knoweſt a great deal more. My ſecret Sins are no more hid from thee, than thoſe which are moſt open and manifeſt.

And they are all the more grievous, becauſe a petty Temptation hath too oft prevailed to make me neglect my Duty towards thee. O how ſhameful is it that a ſmall Gain, or a momentary Pleaſure, or the good Word of Men, whoſe Breath is in their Noſtrils, ſhould be preferred before that Honour which I owe to thee, and thoſe infinite Treaſures of thy Grace in Chriſt Jeſus, and that immortal Life and Glory, which he hath promiſed to the faithful! and all this againſt the clear Underſtanding which thou haſt given me of thy Will, againſt many holy Purpoſes, Reſolutions, and Vows of abſolute Obedience to it in all Things; and againſt the Taſtes I have had how gracious thou art, and how good it is to keep thy Commandments.

[z] *Here mention the particular Acts of Intemperance, Unchariteableneſs, or any elſe you have been guilty of.*

V.

I bluſh, O Lord, to lift up mine Eyes towards Heaven. To me belongs nothing but Shame and Confuſion of Face; in which I ought to lie down before thee, if I reflected only upon the Baſeneſs and Vileneſs of my Deſcent; being the Offspring of diſloyal Parents, who were Rebels and Traitors againſt thy Divine Majeſty. This is a juſt Reproach and Diſgrace to the beſt of us. We were tainted in our firſt Father, who hath left a foul Blot and Stain upon our Nature; and we feel that Weakneſs in our Reaſon, that Strength and Violence in our Paſſions, and that Forwardneſs in our Wills to follow them, and to be led by them, which is ſufficient to humble and lay us low in our own Eyes. With what Dejection of Spirit then ought I to mention all thoſe Offences, whereby I or others have juſtified their firſt Rebellion, and ſtill taken Part with the Devil and his Angels againſt thee, and the Motions of thy holy Spirit in our own Hearts?

Thy Mercy indeed is ſo much the more miraculous, which hath beſtowed ſuch great Benefits, as I have acknowledged, upon ſuch vile, ſuch ſinful, ſuch unthankful Wretches, and, at the beſt, ſuch unprofitable Creatures; whoſe Underſtandings are ſo ſhallow to comprehend and admire thy Love; whoſe Affections are ſo heavy, ſo liſtleſs, and ſo unapt to lay it to Heart; and who, when they have done all that they can, have done no more than was their

Duty

Duty to do. But the greater Reaſon there is that I ſhould be confounded at the Remembrance of my Diſobedience to thee, notwithſtanding ſuch unexpected, as well as undeſerved Demonſtrations of thy Love and Grace towards Mankind. It becomes me to bow myſelf lower than my Knees before thee; and to debaſe myſelf as much as I am able in thy Preſence; ſince I am but ſinful Duſt and Aſhes, that deſerves to be caſt down, even into the Pit of Deſtruction. The very Multitude of my Offences is enough to amaze and perplex my Thoughts; the Weight of them, did I always feel it, may well depreſs and ſink my Spirit into the greateſt Horror and Affrightment; but the Baſeneſs and Ingratitude of them to ſo gracious a Father, O how——

VI.

I am not able to expreſs, O Lord, the Shame, the Conſternation, and the Trouble of my Spirit, at the Thought of that Ingratitude. I loath and abhor myſelf, as unworthy to live and breath upon the Face of the Earth. I am aſtoniſhed at thy wonderful Patience and Long-ſuffering, which not only endures ſuch a Wretch as I am, but permits me to ſpeak unto thee, and to cry for Mercy to that Love which I have ſo much abuſed. O that I were ſenſibly affected with ſomething of thee! that at leaſt thy ſparing and forbearing Mercy did mightily move, and everlaſtingly poſſeſs my

Heart with Admiration of it! that ſo I may with the more ingenuous Sorrow and Grief bewail mine Offences againſt ſuch tender Bowels of Compaſſion towards me. *O that my Head were Waters, and mine Eyes a Fountain of Tears*[a]! that I may weep bitterly for my unkind Requitals of the infinite Bounty of thee, my Creator, and of the unconceivable Love of my bleſſed Saviour, and of the unwearied Grace of thy holy Spirit, which I hope I ſtill feel working in my Heart.

Fill me, O God, with the ſaddeſt Remembrance of all my Follies, and poſſeſs my Reaſon ſo much againſt them, that I may have an utter Hatred and Deteſtation of them, as the greateſt Offences to me, as well as to thy Divine Majeſty. It is eaſier, I know, to make large Confeſſions, than to be truly contrite and broken in Heart; and we are more inclined to ſigh and groan under the Senſe of thy Diſpleaſure, than to *abhor that which is evil, and to cleave to that which is good*[b]. Be thou therefore pleaſed, O Lord, the Father of our Spirits, to wound my Soul with a lively Senſe of the Vileneſs of my Behaviour towards thee *the God of my Life, in whoſe Hand my Breath is, and whoſe are all my Ways*[c]. Eſtrange me from every Thing that will not let me love thee with all my Heart, and Soul, and Strength; by whom it is that I have Power to love any Thing at all.

[a] Jer. ix. 1. [b] Rom. xii. 9. Pſal. xlii. 8. [c] Dan. v. 23.

Set

Set my Heart in ſuch a perfect Enmity to all Things contrary to thy bleſſed Will, that I may never be reconciled to them any more: And diſpoſe me to ſuch an entire Affection to all thy Commands, that none of them may be grievous to me, but I may account thy Yoke to be eaſy, and thy Burthen to be light.

And then *be merciful unto me*, good Lord, *according to thy Loving-kindneſs; according unto the Multitude of thy tender Mercies blot out all my Tranſgreſſions.* Be merciful unto me for Jeſus Chriſt his Sake, who came into the World, and died to ſave Sinners. *O remember not the Sins of my Youth, nor the Tranſgreſſions* of my riper Years; *according to thy Mercy remember thou me, for thy Goodneſs Sake, O Lord. For I confeſs mine Iniquity, and am ſorry for my Sin. I acknowledge my Sin unto thee, and mine Iniquity have I not hid. Enter not therefore into Judgment with thy Servant; for if thou, Lord, ſhouldeſt mark Iniquities, O Lord, who ſhall ſtand? But there is Forgiveneſs with thee, that thou mayeſt be feared. Thou art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in Mercy unto all them that call upon thee. Give Ear therefore unto my Prayer, and attend to the Voice of my Supplication. And for thy Name's Sake pardon mine Iniquity, for it is great*[d].

[d] Pſal. li. 1. xxv. 7. xxxviii. 18. cxliii. 2. cxxx. 3, 4. lxxxvi. 5, 6. xxv. 11.

VII.

Great are thy tender Mercies, O Lord, who haſt not yet caſt me away from thy Preſence, nor dealt with me after my Sins, nor rewarded me according to mine Iniquities. Adored be thine infinite Goodneſs, that I am ſo far from being caſt into the Place of weeping, wailing, and gnaſhing of Teeth, that I do not yet ſuffer here the Pains, and the Anguiſh and Miſery which mine Offences have deſerved. I might have been lamenting them in thoſe doleful Complaints of thy antient Servant, ſaying, *Thine Arrows ſtick faſt in me, and thy Hand preſſeth me ſore. There is no Soundneſs in my Fleſh, becauſe of thine Anger, neither is there any Reſt in my Bones, becauſe of my Sin. I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the Day long: For my Loins are filled with a loathſome Diſeaſe, and there is no Soundneſs in my Fleſh. I am feeble and ſore broken; I have roared, by reaſon of the Diſquietneſs of my Heart:* But Thanks be to thy moſt long-ſuffering Goodneſs, *thy fierce Anger goeth not over me; thy Terror hath not cut me off. Lovers and Friends haſt thou not put far from me, nor mine Acquaintance into Darkneſs* [c].

Yea, thou declareſt thyſelf willing to accept me again in Friendſhip with thyſelf; and haſt in the moſt loving manner invited me to come unto thee, and bid me hope for a Pardon through thy Mercy in Chriſt Jeſus. O how

[c] Pſal. xxxviii. 2, 3, 6, &c xxxviii. 16, 18.

ſweet

ſweet are thoſe precious Words, *Come unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you Reſt? How* precious are thy Promiſes, *that thou wilt put thy Laws into our Mind, and write them in our Hearts; and be merciful to our Unrighteouſneſs, and remember our Sins and Iniquities no more!* Marvellous was thy Mercy, O Lord Jeſus, who ſent thine Apoſtles *to open Mens Eyes, and to turn them from Darkneſs to Light, and from the Power of Satan to God, that they might receive Forgiveneſs of Sins, and Inheritance among them who are ſanctified by Faith that is in thee*[f].

VIII.

I receive with all Thankfulneſs this thy exceeding great Grace, which hath declared, that *if we walk in the Light as thou art in the Light, we ſhall have Fellowſhip one with another, and the Blood of Jeſus Chriſt thy Son ſhall cleanſe us from all Sin.* I admire thy incomprehenſible Love. *O how great is the Loving-kindneſs of the Lord our God, and his Compaſſion unto ſuch as turn unto him in Holineſs*[g]! It conſtrains me to offer up myſelf with the heartieſt Affection to thy Service, reſolving hereafter to be more watchful, more diligent, more zealous in the Performance of my Duty, and to walk more circumſpectly as a Child of the Light, and to make it my Delight to do thy Will, O God. Behold, O Lord, my Heart is bent to reſign

[f] Matt. xi. 26. Heb. viii. 10, 12. Acts xxvi. 8.
[g] 1 John. i. 7. Eccl. xvii. 19.

itſelf perfectly into thy Hands, and to make a new Dedication of all the Powers of my Soul and Body to be employed continually in well-doing. *I have ſworn, and am ſtedfaſtly purpoſed to keep thy righteous Precepts. I have choſen the Way of Truth; thy Judgments have I laid before me. I will ſtick unto thy Teſtimonies, and run the Way of thy Commandments. Thy Word have I hid in my Heart, that I may not ſin againſt thee. I will rejoice in the Way of thy Teſtimonies as much as in all Riches. I will meditate in thy Precepts, and have Reſpect unto thy Ways. I will delight myſelf alſo in thy Statutes; I will never forget thy Word. Depart from me, ye Evil-doers; for I will keep the Commandments of my God. Thy Teſtimonies have I taken as my Heritage for ever; for they are the rejoicing of my Heart. I have inclined my Heart to perform thy Statues alway, even unto the End*[h].

IX.

Accept, I beſeech thee, the free-will Offerings of my Mouth, O Lord, and teach me thy Judgments. Give me Underſtanding, and I ſhall keep thy Law; yea, I ſhall obſerve it with my whole Heart. Make me to go in the Path of thy Commandments; for therein do I delight. With my whole Heart have I ſought thee, O let me not wander from thy Commandments. I am ſenſible of the exceeding great Weakneſs and Inconſtancy of our

[h] Pſal. cxix. 30, 31, 14, 15, 16, 115, 111, 112.
[i] Pſal. cxix. 108, 34, 35, 10, 115, 116, 117.

Nature,

Nature, and that without thy gracious Aids, I ſhall not be able to accompliſh theſe Reſolutions; and therefore I look upon thee with the more ardent Deſires, for Power from above, to confirm and ſtrengthen them, and to aſſiſt me mightily to fulfil thy whole Good-will and Pleaſure. I will ſtedfaſtly depend upon the Promiſe of my bleſſed Saviour, who hath told me, that thou wilt give thy holy Spirit to them that aſk it of thee. My Hope, O God, is in this thy true and faithful Word. *Uphold me according unto thy Word, that I may live; and let me not be aſhamed of my Hope. Hold thou me up and I ſhall be ſafe; and I will have Reſpect unto thy Statutes continually.* Preſerve in me ſuch a lively Senſe of thy Good-will and Readineſs to help me, that I may be ſo *ſtrong in our Lord, and in the Power of his Might*, as to be *able to do all Things through Chriſt ſtrengthening of me.*

O thou Father of Mercies, who haſt beſtowed ſo many, and ſo great Bleſſings on us without aſking, who haſt viſited us ſo lovingly, when we could not deſire any Grace from thee; and when we could, but did not deſire it; and when we did, but very coldly, and with little Devotion of Spirit; deny not the humble and importunate Requeſts of thy poor Supplicant, who moſt earneſtly beſeeches thee, *that thou wilt grant me according to the Riches of thy Glory, to be ſtrengthened with Might, by thy Spirit, in the inner Man*[k].

[k] Eph. iii. 16.

Arm me therewith againſt the Aſſaults of all Temptation, either from the good or the evil Things of this Life; that they may never ſeduce, or deter me from my Duty, that I may do virtuouſly in all Points, according to my Chriſtian Profeſſion, and thoſe Vows and Promiſes wherein I ſtand engaged to thee.

X.

Fill me, O God, with the whole Knowledge of thy *Will, in all Wiſdom and ſpiritual Underſtanding, that I may walk worthy of the Lord, unto all pleaſing, being fruitful in every good Work, and increaſing in the Knowledge of thee my God.* Increaſe that Faith likewiſe more and more, which *worketh by Love, and purifieth the Heart*, and *overcometh the World.* Stir up in me that lively Hope, which may make me *purify myſelf even as thou art pure*; and that ardent Love to thee, which will make me chearfully do thy Will, and love my Brethren, *with a pure Heart fervently.*

Excite in me a *great Hunger and Thirſt after Righteouſneſs*, till I feel the Satisfaction of perfect Reconciliation with thee, and Conformity to thee. Continue me in the Number of thoſe who are humble and lowly in their own Eyes, and moderate in all their Appetites and Deſires; who mourn daily that they have offended thee, and that others keep not thy Laws; who are *meek and gentle towards all Men*, in Heart and Word, and all their Actions; who are *merciful* and

and kind, ready to give and to forgive; who are pure in all their Thoughts, Intentions, Paſſions, and Converſation; and who ſtudy the Things that *make for Peace*; and who are void of all Pride and Vain-glory, of all Strife and Contention; *endeavouring to keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace.* O my God, poſſeſs me with ſuch a ſtrong Senſe of the Bleſſedneſs which thou haſt pronounced to all theſe, that I may be willing alſo to ſuffer Wrong, rather than to do it; and to ſuffer any Thing for Righteouſneſs Sake, with a conſtant Heart; giving Thanks unto thee that thou wilt honour me, and count me worthy *to ſuffer for the Name of Chriſt.*

Help me to give a good Example to all my Neighhours, by the ſincere Practice of all theſe Virtues, *ſhining as the Light of the World*, and being *the Salt of the Earth*; that others *ſeeing my good Works, may glorify thee our heavenly Father.* Diſpoſe my Heart *to caſt all its Care on thee*; *to pray without ceaſing*; *to bleſs thy holy Name at all Times*; *to truſt in thee* with a ſtedfaſt Confidence in thy Almighty Goodneſs; to make thee *my Strength, and my Fortreſs, and the Rock of my Salvation*; *to have my Converſation without Covetouſneſs*; *and to ſet my Affections on Things above, where Chriſt is at thy right Hand. In the Multitude of my Thoughts within me, let thy Comforts, O Lord, delight my Soul.* When I am full, O that I may never wax wanton, or forget thee; but *ſtill rejoice in our Lord alway*;

that

that ſo when *I have nothing*, I may be *as poſſeſſing all Things.*

Let the doing of my Duty ever be my Pleaſure, and to ſerve thee be a great Reward. Let a contented Mind be inſtead of all that I want, and a thankful Heart ſweeten all my Enjoyments. Let Patience always eaſe me under my Burdens, and an entire Submiſſion to thy Will; breed in me a ſettled Tranquility of Spirit, let my Delight be in the excellent that are in the Earth, and my Thoughts be very much there while I live, where I deſire to be when I die: That Heaven being my Aim, my Hope, and the longing Expectation of my Soul, I may conquer all Difficulties in my Way to it, and go through Honour and Diſhonour, good Report and bad Report, Proſperity and Adverſity, with the ſame Chearfulneſs and Evenneſs of Mind, till at laſt I come to that Place of Reſt and Peace with the glorified Jeſus, who is able to give eternal Life to them that obey him.

XI.

Bleſſed be thy Name, who haſt inſpired my Heart with theſe holy Deſires, and wrought theſe Purpoſes and Reſolutions in me. It is an Earneſt, I hope, of thy never-failing Love towards me; in Aſſurance of which I repoſe myſelf with full Satisfaction of Heart. Yea, this is my Joy and my Glory, that I know thee; and that I live under the Care of thy wiſe, merciful, and Almighty Providence at preſent; and

and that I have the Promiſe of Remiſſion of Sins, and of a Crown of Life; *when the Times of Refreſhment ſhall come from thy Preſence, and thou ſhalt ſend Jeſus* to conduct all the Faithful to that glorious Place where he lives. *This is my Salvation, and all my Deſire*[1]. Now that I ſee thy abundant Love, O heavenly Father, it ſufficeth. Rejoice with me likewiſe, all ye Angels of God, according to the Word of our Lord, that *there is Joy in Heaven over one Sinner that repenteth. Bleſs the Lord, ye Heavenly Hoſt, ye Miniſters of his that do his Pleaſure.* And, O that this Joy may increaſe continually, by my daily Increaſe in all Goodneſs, and the perfecting of my Repentance! till I come to be admitted into their Company, and *enter into the Joy of my Lord.*

XII.

And I wiſh the ſame Happineſs to all Mankind, which I deſire for myſelf. It will multiply my Joy, to ſee all the People praiſe thee, O God, to ſee all the People praiſe thee. *O make a joyful Noiſe unto the Lord all ye Lands; ſerve the Lord with Gladneſs, and come before his Preſence with Thankſgiving. Give unto the Lord, O ye Kindreds of the People, give unto the Lord Glory and Strength. Give unto the Lord the Glory due unto his Name; bring an Offering, and come into his Courts. O worſhip the Lord with holy Worſhip; fear before him all the Earth*[m].

[1] Acts iii. 19. 2 Sam. xxiii. 5. Luke xv. 7. Pſal. ciii. 21. [m] Pſal. c. 1. xcvi. 8, 9.

More

More eſpecially, I deſire the Increaſe of *Grace, Mercy, and Peace* to thy choſen People, beſeeching thee to bleſs thy univerſal Church, and to fill the Hearts of all its Members with thy Love, that they may reſt neither Day nor Night, ſaying, bleſſed be God; bleſſed be the glorious Majeſty of Heaven and Earth, whoſe Power, Wiſdom, and Goodneſs excel all Praiſe, and endure for ever. And *ariſe, O God, for the ſighing of the Poor and the Needy; let not the Men of the Earth always oppreſs them. Let the Salvation of thy People come out of thy holy Place. Be thou exalted in thy own Strength, and ſo will we ſing and praiſe thy Power. Lord, continue thy Loving-kindneſs unto thoſe that know thee, and thy Righteouſneſs to Men of upright Hearts. Let not the Foot of Pride come againſt them; and let not the Hand of the Wicked remove them. O let the Wickedneſs of the Wicked come to an End; but eſtabliſh thou the Juſt*[n].

Protect, O Lord, and defend that Part of thy Church which thou haſt planted in theſe Kingdoms. Great and innumerable have been thy Mercies to us; but alas! we are a *ſtubborn and rebellious People; a People that ſet not our Heart aright, and whoſe Spirit hath not been ſtedfaſt with thee.* And therefore thou haſt juſtly plagued us many Ways; and we ſhould have but our Deſerts, if thy Hand ſhould ſtill be ſtretched out to *puniſh us ſeven Times more for*

[n] Pſal. x. 18. xiv. 7. xxi. 23. xxxvi. 10, 11, 12. vii. 9.

our

our Sins. *But what is Man, that thou ſhouldeſt take Diſpleaſure at him? or what is a corruptible Generation, that thou ſhouldeſt be extremely angry with them? For in Truth there is none among them but hath dealt wickedly; and among the faithful there is none that hath not done amiſs. But in this, O Lord, thy Righteouſneſs and Goodneſs ſhall be declared, if thou be merciful to them which have not the Confidence of good Works* °.

O be merciful unto us, be merciful unto us, and do not utterly forſake us. *O remember not againſt us former Iniquities,* and that we have *ſo ſoon forgot thy Works.* and the wonderful Deliverances which thou haſt given us. *Help us, O God of our Salvation, for the Glory of thy Name, and deliver us and purge away our Sins for thy Name's Sake.* Fill us with thy Wiſdom from above, that we may be heartily in Love with the Religion which we profeſs; and preſerve us in it for ever. Defeat the Counſels of all its Enemies, and bring their wicked Devices to nought. Unite us to each other in brotherly Love, and make us at Peace among ourſelves. O let Peace be within this Church; *Let them proſper that love her, and ſeek her Good.* Save *now, I beſeech thee, O Lord; O Lord, I beſeech thee, ſend now Proſperity.*

And for that End, endue our Sovereign Lord the King with all the Gifts and Graces of thy holy Spirit: Hear the daily Prayers of thy

° Pſal. lxxviii. 8. 2 Eſdras viii. 34, 35, 36. Pſal. lxxix. 8, 9. cxviii. 25.

Church

Church for him, *that he may always incline to thy Will, and walk in thy Ways, and ſtudy to preſerve thy People committed to his Charge, in Wealth, Peace, and Godlineſs.* Enlighten all our Biſhops, Prieſts, and Deacons, with true Knowledge and Underſtanding of thy Word; and enable them both by their Life and Doctrine, to ſet it forth, and ſhew it accordingly. Teach all our Counſellors and Senators Wiſdom; and give all our Magiſtrates Courage and Zeal to execute Juſtice, and to maintain Truth. Vouchſafe to all thy People Increaſe of Grace, to hear thy Word with Meekneſs, and to receive it with pure and ſincere Affection, and to bring forth the Fruits of the Spirit. Give them honeſt and good Hearts to honour and obey the King, and all that are put in Authority under him; to ſubmit themſelves to all their Governors, Teachers, ſpiritual Paſtors and Maſters; to order themſelves lowly and reverently to all their Betters; and to be careful not to hurt one another by Word or Deed; to be juſt and true in all their Dealings; to bear no Malice nor Hatred in their Hearts; to preſerve themſelves in Temperance, Soberneſs, and Chaſtity; not to covet one another's Goods; but to learn and labour truly to get their own Living, and to do their Duty in that State of Life unto which it hath pleaſed thee to call them.

And, good Lord, bleſs the honeſt Labours of all Men among us, and crown them with good Succeſs; eſpecially of thoſe who have any

Work

Work in Hand for the Glory of thy Name, the Increaſe of Chriſtian Piety, and the Peace of thy Church. Reward the Bounty of all charitable Perſons, either for the Honour of Religion, or the Relief of them that are in Poverty: And make the Bones which thou haſt broken to rejoice. Comfort all that are in a ſorrowful Condition, and bring them out of all their Troubles. Send thy Angel to guide and preſerve thoſe who are in Journies, upon their lawful Occaſions. Let them that go down into the Deep, and do Buſineſs upon the great Waters, obſerve thy Providence, and praiſe thee for thy Goodneſs, and for thy wonderful Works for the Children of Men. Forgive all that have done me any Evil, and requite the Kindneſs of thoſe who have done me any Good. *Let their Souls abide in Good, and their Seed inherit the Earth*[p]. Rejoice the Heart of all my Friends, and fulfil the Petitions of all that have deſired my Prayers. *Let none that wait on thee, O Lord, be aſhamed; let all them that truſt in thee, ſay continually, the Lord be magnified. Save and deliver* every one of *us, O Lord our God, from the Hands of our Enemies, to give Thanks unto thy Holy Name, and to triumph in thy Praiſe. Bleſſed be the God and Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, from everlaſting to everlaſting; and let all the People ſay,* Amen. *Praiſe the Lord*[q].

[p] Pſal. xxv. 13. [q] Pſal. cvi. *ult.*

After

After this, if the Spirits be tired, it will be fit to give them ſome Refreſhment; and then it will be very profitable to read and weigh ſeriouſly our Saviour's Sermon on the Mount, *contained in the* v^th^, vi^th^, *and* vii^th^ *Chapters of the Goſpel according to St.* Matthew: *And ſuch Meditations may be interſperſed as are moſt ſuittable to the Perſon's Condition and Occaſions, with the Addition of ſome of the Prayers foregoing, for* Resolution *in Well-doing, or for the* Divine Grace; *or for* Success *in any Buſineſs, or for Friends that are* troubled in Mind, *or are on a long* Journey, *&c. and then conclude with the following Prayer and Thankſgiving.*

I.

I Moſt humbly adore and worſhip thee, O Lord moſt high, the Poſſeſſor of Heaven and Earth, and admire thy infinite Love to Mankind, whom thou haſt thought worthy the Expence of the Blood of thy dear Son, and the Conduct and Aſſiſtance of the Holy Ghoſt, and the Miniſtry of Angels (by whom thou exerciſeſt a moſt watchful Providence over us) and ſo many gracious Meſſages from Heaven, wherein thou haſt plainly declared, that thou deſireſt to ſee us eternally happy, by being made Partakers of a divine Nature. When we ſeriouſly conſider thy glorious Perfections, and thy aſtoniſhing Kindneſs towards us, we may juſtly

juſtly wonder at ourſelves, that we ſhould ever refuſe to be conformed to thy Will; nay, that we ſhould not be exceeding forward to join ourſelves unto thee, in moſt hearty Love and entire Friendſhip with thee. I am amazed at the Dulneſs and Stupidity of our Nature; that there ſhould need ſo many Intreaties and Beſeechings of us, to be ſo happy. It is impoſſible to think of thee, and to prefer any Thing in our Eſteem, and Deſire, and Choice, and Delight and Joy, before thy Favour and Goodwill towards us; who art ſo able and ſo deſirous to beſtow the greateſt Bliſs upon us. And therefore I moſt earneſtly beſeech thy Goodneſs, that to all other Mercies which I have begged of thee, thou wilt add this Grace to bring thyſelf often to my Remembrance, and to poſſeſs my Heart with a conſtant, ſerious, and deep Senſe of thy marvellous Kindneſs; in giving me Liberty to chooſe ſo great a Good as thyſelf, and in propounding to my Will ſuch everlaſting Happineſs; and in drawing me from thoſe Ways, which are contrary even to my Peace and Satisfaction here, by ſuch powerful Motives to well-doing.

II.

Awaken, O Lord, awaken this Senſe continually in my Mind. Faſten my Thoughts upon thoſe unſeen and eternal Enjoyments. Make me feel what an Happineſs it is to love thee with all my Heart; to cleave unto thee

againſt

againſt all Temptation, which would allure or fright me from my Duty; to bleſs and praiſe thee with joyful Lips; to be kept in perfect Peace and Tranquillity, while my Mind is ſtayed on thee; to be full and ſatisfied, and to deſire nothing more, but to live for ever in thy Love. O make me more and more to conceive and remember what an infinite Delight thou, the infinite Good, canſt pour forth into us; how highly our Lord Jeſus is dignified and exalted; and that *thou haſt made him moſt bleſſed for ever, and made him exceeding glad with thy Countenance*[r]; and that he will bring all thy Children unto his Glory: Settle in my Soul ſuch ſtrong Apprehenſions of theſe Things, that they may purify my Heart more perfectly, and provoke me to an unwearied Diligence in well-doing, and make me *endure Hardſhip* alſo, if need be, *as a good Soldier of Jeſus Chriſt, who was made perfect through Sufferings.*

III.

And aſſiſt me eſpecially in theſe holy Addreſſes to thee; that *continuing inſtant in Prayer* I may feel my Heart lifted up more and more towards Heaven, by ardent Breathings after thee. And endue me likewiſe with ſuch a Spirit of Wiſdom, and ſuch Sincerity of Heart, that I may never be diſcouraged, though I fall ſhort of the Height of my Deſires; but I may always thankfully acknowledge thy Grace, in

[r] Pſal. xxi. 6.

what

what I have attained, and labour earneſtly to grow better, with a quiet, patient, even, and ſteady Mind. Preſerve in me an humble Confidence, that thou wilt never forſake the Work of thine own Hands; and let that Confidence make me induſtrious, but not ſlothful: And let thy holy Spirit bleſs and further my Endeavours; and a fervent Deſire and hearty Goodwill preſs me forward; and the Pleaſures of Religion mightily indear it to me; and let the Joy that thou haſt ſet before me, make me run the Way of thy Commandments with an enlarged Heart; and the nearer I come to the End of my Race, may it pleaſe thy Goodneſs to preſent me with a clearer Sight of that Crown of Life, which our Lord hath promiſed! Open to me more of the Treaſuries of thy Kingdom, and fill me with a greater Joy in hope of the Glory; that ſo I may be willing *to be diſſolved, and to be with Chriſt, which is the beſt of all.*

IV.

And now, O Lord, what Thanks ſhall I render unto thee for theſe holy Thoughts, Deſires, and Affections, which by thy Grace I feel in my Heart; together with all the other Benefits which thou haſt beſtowed on me, or intendeſt for me? Great and marvellous Things, O God, haſt thou wrought for the Children of Men, and thou haſt promiſed far greater, if we will be truly grateful unto thee for what we have already received. Thou ſendeſt one Bleſſing

ing as the Earneſt of another; having given thy Son to us, that he might give us thy holy Spirit; and given him to die for us, that he might give us Life. Thou granteſt to us thy Grace, that we may repent; and thou giveſt Repentance, that thou mayeſt give us Pardon; and thou pardoneſt our Sins, that we may be thy Children; and being thy Children, thou deſigneſt to make us thy Heirs together with our bleſſed Saviour. Thou giveſt us Temporal Bleſſings, that we may thirſt after ſpiritual; and thou filleſt us with ſpiritual Bleſſings in Chriſt, that we may long for the Accompliſhment of them in immortal Life. There is none can declare the Goodneſs of the Lord. We beſt declare our Senſe of it, when we thankfully receive it, and become as good as thou wouldeſt have us, and enable us to be. And how great, how free is that Goodneſs, which is moſt of all pleaſed when we are happy! and eſteems our doing ourſelves Good, with thy Grace and Favour, the Return that we ſhould make of thy Bounty. Thou doeſt us Good before we aſk; and thou giveſt liberally unto us, that thou mayeſt move us to aſk more. Thou intreateſt us when we are unwilling; thou beſeecheſt us that we would let thee bleſs us, and not put Impediments in the Way of our own Happineſs: Thou pitieſt us when we have no Compaſſion for ourſelves; and art ſtill careful of us, when we trifle away the richeſt Mercies.

V.

V.

O the exceeding Riches of thy Grace to the Children of Men! Who can number all thy Mercies? and who can underſtand the Greatneſs of thoſe of which we make Mention? It is eaſier to ſpeak of them, than to be affected with the Multitude and ſurpaſſing Value of them; and we can ſooner be affected with them than do any Thing worthy ſuch excellent Love. Our Praiſes and Thankſgiving conſiſt too much in Words, and tranſient Admirations, and ſudden Paſſions. O that I had ſuch a ſerious, ſuch a conſiderate Heart, as to return unto thee the conſtant, uniform, and chearful Obedience of a godly Life! by which I know, I ſhall not only moſt praiſe and glorify thee, but do the greateſt Benefit to myſelf; and when I have done all that I can, I will acknowledge myſelf an unprofitable Servant, that hath done no more than was his Duty to do. I will eſteem all *my* Goodneſs to be the Fruit of *thy* great Goodneſs to me: And I will rejoice in this, that thou art formed in me, and that I am made like unto the Son of thy Love; and that I have Hopes, through thy abundant and undeſerved Mercy, to live with him in his heavenly Kingdom; which I beſeech thee haſten, to the eternal Joy of all thoſe that *love his Appearing*. Amen, Amen. *Let thy Kingdom come; that I may ſee the Good of thy Choſen, and glory with thine Inheritance*; and may all with united Hearts and Affections

Affections render our Thanks unto thee, and ſing thy everlaſting Praiſes.

The Grace of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and the Love of God, and the Communication of the Holy Ghoſt, be with me, and with all thy People every where, both now and always. *Amen.*

A Prayer in Lent, *or upon any public* Fast.

I.

O Moſt glorious God, who art from Everlaſting to Everlaſting bleſſed in thyſelf; and who alone can ſatisfy the hungry Soul, and filleſt the humble with good Things; in a ſerious Senſe of my own Emptineſs and thy Fulneſs; of my great Needs, and thy Bounty and Readineſs to beſtow thy Benefits, I caſt down myſelf before thee; worſhipping and adoring thy incomprehenſible Perfections, with a great Fear of thy Almighty Majeſty, and an humble Hope in thine infinite Goodneſs, and an hearty Love to thy Purity and Righteouſneſs, and entire Submiſſion to thy holy Will; believing thy gracious Promiſes, deſiring to be guided by thy Wiſdom, depending on thy Providence, bleſſing and praiſing thee for thy unſpeakable Mercies to me, and earneſtly beſeeching the Continuance of them; with a continual

tinual Senſe in my Heart of thy abundant Goodneſs to me, and to all thy Creatures, and of thoſe Duties which I owe to thee, and to all Men.

II.

I moſt ſorrowfully bewail my Careleſſneſs, O Lord, that I have had ſo ſeldom, or ſo ſhort, or ſo cold and little affecting Thoughts of thee; and that I have performed theſe Acts of Worſhip and Adoration, of Fear and Reverence, of Faith and Love, of Submiſſion and Reſignation, of Supplication and Thankſgiving, with ſo little Intention and Earneſtneſs of Mind, with ſo little Zeal and Fervency of Affection, and with ſo little Humility and Proſtration of Spirit. Nothing, O my God, is of ſo bitter Remembrance to my Thoughts; nothing is ſuch a Load to my Heart, as that I have loved the World, at any Time, more than thee; and purſued with greater Eagerneſs the Poſſeſſions, and Pleaſures, and Honours of a dying Life, than the Glory and Treaſures of thy Kingdom, the Joy and Happineſs of eternal Endurance. It grieves me to think that I have at any Time ſo coldly entertained the glad Tidings of Salvation; ſo liſtleſly embraced the loving Invitations of my dear Saviour; ſo negligently improved the Helps and Aſſiſtances of the holy Spirit of Grace, and ſo faintly ſought after them. I ſorrowfully again acknowledge that Glory, Honour, and Immortality which Chriſt hath brought to Light by his Goſpel. How

little have I been wounded with the dying and bleeding of thy only begotten Son for my Sake! How little concerned ſometimes in his paſſionate Deſires of the Happineſs of Mankind! How little melted with the ardent Flames of his incomparable Love! How little moved or perſuaded with his importunate Intreaties! How incompliant with his Inſpirations, diſobedient to his Commands, and inſenſible of his precious Promiſes and fearful Threatnings.

III.

I have praiſed thee, alas! but ſeldom, or ſlightly, for ſo glorious an Example as he hath left us of an holy Life; for the Effects and Fruits of his Paſſion and Interceſſion; and for the Power which he hath obtained at thy right Hand. And more loath have I too often been to imitate his Life, and to employ that Power which he hath ſent me from Heaven, to bring my Heart to a Conformity with his Pattern. How often have I received thy good Creatures without ſuch ſerious and hearty Thankſgivings for them as they deſerve! and taſted their Sweetneſs with little Senſe of thee, or Delight in thee, who art the Fountain of all Bliſs: How ſolicitous have I been to pleaſe Men, and obtain the good Opinion and Praiſe of others, rather than to pleaſe thee, and to do thy Commandments, *the Praiſe of which endureth for ever!* O the little Envyings that have been in my Heart at my Brethren's greater Proſperity!

and

and my Aptneſs to be angry and peeviſh; to entertain Suſpicions eaſily, to make wrong or unkind Interpretations; to aggravate Offences; and to keep too long a Senſe of Injuries! I hate myſelf even for theſe Things. O how vile then and odious are all thoſe Sins of Injuſtice or Unmercifulneſs, of which I may have been guilty*!

IV.

Be merciful unto me, O Lord, be merciful unto me, through the Blood of that ſpotleſs Lamb, which was ſhed for the Sins of the World. Remember not againſt me the Vanity of my Thoughts, the Errors and Miſtakes of my Judgment, the Pride of my Spirit, the Greedineſs of my ſenſual Deſires, the Violence and Diſorder of any of my Paſſions, the Unrulineſs of my Tongue, the Inconſtancy of my Purpoſes, or the Baſeneſs and Unworthineſs of any of my Ends and Intentions. O holy God, and merciful Father, enter not into Judgment with me for the Miſpenſe of my precious Time, for letting ſlip any good Opportunities, or for my ill huſbanding the many Talents which thou hadſt entruſted me withal. Let not the Abuſe of any of thy Creatures, the ill Example that I have given to any of my Neighbours, my Unthankfulneſs for a World of Mercies, my Non-obſervance or Forgetfulneſs of thy Fatherly Providences, and my Inſenſibleneſs of other Miſeries, be charged upon me at the Day

* *Here confeſs them particularly.*

of our Lord, or incenſe thy ſevere Diſpleaſure againſt me in this preſent Life. O remember not my immoderate Sorrow from worldly Loſſes; my exceſſive Pleaſure in the Abundance of any worldly Enjoyments; the Deadneſs of my Grief, and the Scarcity of my Tears, for my own Sins, and the Sins of others; and the Heartleſſneſs of my Joys in thee, and in thy Son Chriſt; and for all the Good thou haſt done to me and to my Brethren, or which they do for thy Honour, and the Comfort of thy People. Let not any Diſcontent with my Condition, provoke thee to make it worſe; nor my want of Love to thee, deprive me of the Love of others; nor the Breach of any of my Reſolutions, be puniſhed with an Indifferency and Careleſſneſs of Spirit; nor the Abuſe of any of thy Bleſſings, or Unthankfulneſs for them, move thine offended Goodneſs to ſtrip me naked of them.

V.

But, gracious Lord, ſo pardon me, as to give me the Grace of thy Holy Spirit, to change and renew me throughout, in Spirit, Soul, and Body, and to enable me daily to amend my Life according to thy holy Word; that is the hearty Deſire and Purpoſe of my Soul, which longs for nothing more than a Power from above, to poſſeſs me with more ſteady and affectionate Thoughts of thee, and to fill me with a more enflamed Love to thee, and to all my Brethren; and to diſpoſe my Will to reſign itſelf

ſelf in all Things to thee, and chearfully to comply with thy Providence, and zealouſly to employ all holy Opportunities of doing or receiving Good: O God, deny me not this great Grace, though unworthy of the leaſt; but ſtrengthen me with Might by thy Spirit in the inner Man. Let it teach and direct me in the right Way; let it aſſiſt me to walk in it; let it conſtantly encourage my Progreſs, chearing and refreſhing me when I am ready to faint, upholding me when I am ready to fall, recovering me when I ſlip, enabling me with fervent Deſires to implore thy Mercy, and with reſolved Watchfulneſs to ſtrengthen myſelf from all Temptations for the Time to come.

VI.

Preſerve in me ſuch a ſerious and deep Senſe of the Worth of my Soul, of the Weight of all Eternity, of the Certainty and Greatneſs of the Glory which ſhall be revealed, that they may prevail more with me than all the Honour, and Riches, and Pleaſures of this Life. Prepoſſeſs me with a clear Underſtanding of the Goſpel of our Saviour, with a ſtrong Faith, a fervent Charity, and a lively Hope, againſt all other Things that preſs upon me, and ſolicit my Affections; that ſo nothing may find Admittance into my Heart, but what ſhall ſubmit to thy Laws, and live under the Government and Diſcipline of our Lord Jeſus. Inſtruct me how to make all my Pleaſures diſ-

creet, moderate, and useful to me; that they may never take up the best of my Time, nor devour the Strength of my Mind. Teach me to use the Riches of this World aright, and to do Good to myself and others with them. Dispose me to look upon Greatness or Honours but as greater Opportunities to do thee more Honour, and the World more Service. Moderate all my Passions, and subdue them perfectly to the Obedience of Reason and Religion. O that all my Conversation with others may be innocent and profitable; and my private Retirements more devout and heavenly; and all my Employments without inordinate Cares and Fears, or any Distrust of thy good Providence. Help me to look upon long Life as desirable, only that I may have more Time to root out perfectly all evil Habits and Dispositions; to implant and increase all divine Virtues, and to do the more Good, that I may be better fitted for an happy Life, World without End. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

A Prayer

A Prayer in Time of Plague.

The ſame Prayer may be uſed in Time of any public Calamity; and ſome of theſe following Prayers added, as there ſhall be Occaſion.

GReat and many, O Lord, are the Sins whereby we have provoked thee in theſe Kingdoms, to ſend all thy ſore Judgments upon us, *the Sword, the Famine, and the Peſtilence, to cut off from them Man and Beaſt.* It is only of thy infinite Mercies, that we are not utterly conſumed, and becauſe thy Compaſſions fail not. Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, that we are not yet delivered into the Hand of thoſe that hate us; but only corrected by thy own Hand, who art the Father of Mercies: To them we flee now in our great Diſtreſs, and beſeech thee, that thou wilt not ſhut up the Bowels of thy tender Mercy and Compaſſion towards us in Diſpleaſure; but puniſh us, that thou mayeſt pardon us, and amend us, and make us a more devout, ſober, righteous, and charitable People, zealous of good Works. Say to thy deſtroying Angel, Hold thy Hand; it is enough.

Or if thou art pleaſed to have it ſtill ſtretched out againſt us, give Grace to us who are yet in Health to ſpend our Time in examining our Hearts and Lives; in bewailing our Offences; in ſettling our Purpoſes of Repentance and new Obedience; in inuring ourſelves to delight in

Prayer and holy Meditation; in giving Thanks to thee for thy merciful Preſervation of us; in preparing ourſelves for whatſoever Change thou art pleaſed to make in our Condition; and in doing Good, with compaſſionate Hearts, to thoſe poor People that lie under thy heavy Viſitation. And graciouſly vouchſafe to beſtow upon them entire Patience and Submiſſion to thy Will; and enable them with unfeigned Repentance, and humble Hope in thy Mercy, to reſign themſelves and theirs into thy Hands; that howſoever thou ſhalt diſpoſe of any of us, living or dying, we may be the Lord's.

Lord have Mercy upon us all, for Jeſus Chriſt his Sake. Amen.

In Time of War.

O God, who haſt juſtly puniſhed our carnal Security, and abuſe of that Peace and Quietneſs which we have enjoyed, by making us *hear the Sound of the Trumpet, and the Alarm of the War*; be merciful unto us, I moſt humbly beſeech thee, and awaken every one of our Souls thereby, to ſearch and try our Ways, and to turn unto thee by a timely Repentance and Amendment of our Lives; though we deſerve to be cut off by the Sword, which is unſheathed, as a *fooliſh People that have not known thee; ſottiſh Children that have no Underſtanding; who*

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are wiſe to do Evil, but to do Good have no Knowledge; yet *ſpare us, good Lord, ſpare thy People, and give not thy Heritage to Reproach*[t].

O thou God of Peace, who didſt ſend thy own Son among thine Enemies, to make a Reconciliation between loſt Men and thyſelf, inſpire our Hearts, and the Hearts of all thoſe with whom we are at Difference, with a Love of Peace; and incline us to hearken and conſent to reaſonable Terms of Reconciliation: And for that End, root out of every one of our Minds and Hearts all Pride and Ambition; all inordinate Deſire of Greatneſs and Dominion; all Covetouſneſs and Greedineſs of Wealth; all falſe Opinions, Prejudices, and Miſapprehenſions; all Anger, Paſſion, and cauſeleſs Jealouſies; and eſpecially all ſtudy of Revenge; all Rancour and Bitterneſs; all Hatred and Malice; with whatſoever elſe is contrary to the Doctrine and Spirit of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.

Poſſeſs us with a Spirit of Truth, and Love, and Brotherly Affection: Make us Tender-hearted, and to have Compaſſion one towards another; to ſtudy to be Peace-makers; to pray for Peace; to ſeek thoſe Things which will make for Peace; and not only to ſeek after it, but to purſue it to the utmoſt of our Power. Direct to thoſe Expedients which will happily unite, and tie us faſt together. Or if theſe miſerable Differences continue, and cannot otherwiſe be compoſed, go forth, O Lord, with our

[t] Jer. iv. 22. Joel ii. 17.

Hoſts; give Wiſdom and Valour to our Leaders; Reſolution and undaunted Courage to our Soldiers; and good Succeſs to all thoſe Enterprizes which are undertaken for the common Good and Safety of theſe Kingdoms. O God, *let us fall into thy Hands, for thy Mercies are great; but not into the Hands of Men, when they are wrathfully diſpleaſed at us.* And if thou art pleaſed to crown us with Victory, give us Grace to uſe it with Moderation, Juſtice, and Charity. O that we may overcome likewiſe all Temptations to bold and preſumptuous Continuance in our Sins againſt thee; and be ſubdued by thy Favour towards us, to a ſerious Study and Care, how to *lead a peaceable Life in all Godlineſs and Honeſty*; for the Sake of Chriſt Jeſus, the Prince of Peace, whoſe *Grace be with us all.* Amen.

In Time of Scarcity.

O God, who *turneſt a fruitful Land into Barrenneſs, for the Wickedneſs of them that dwell therein*, pour down upon the ſinful Inhabitants of theſe Iſlands, a ſerious Senſe of their own Undeſervings, and of thy righteous Judgments, which thou haſt ſent upon them; that they may humble themſelves before thee, and repent of their Wantonneſs and Riot; of their feaſting themſelves without Fear, and hardening their Hearts

Hearts againſt the Cries of the Poor; of their Diſcontent and repining in the midſt of Plenty, and their loathing the divine Food of their Souls, which thou haſt juſtly puniſhed with Scarcity of Bread in all Places.

Make us aſhamed, O Lord, and heartily ſorry for theſe and all other our Offences againſt thy Divine Majeſty; and as an Earneſt of a better Obedience for the Time to come, diſpoſe the Hearts of thoſe who are afflicted, to ſubmit with Meekneſs to thy Puniſhment; and preſerve them from all Murmuring at thy wiſe Providence. Open the Hearts likewiſe of thoſe who are Rich, to ſhew Mercy to them, and comfort them in their Miſeries. The greater Store of Proviſion any have treaſured up againſt this Time of Want, incline them ſo much the more to conſider the Poor and Needy, and fear to oppreſs them. Enlarge their Hearts in more abundant Charity, by the Advantage they make of this preſent Scarcity; and when thou ſhalt have turned it into Plenty again, Lord make us all truly thankful, and ſoberly to uſe thy Bleſſings, and to bring forth plentifully the Fruit of good Living, to the Honour and Praiſe of thy Name, and the eternal Happineſs of our Souls and Bodies, in that World where there is no Want, but Fulneſs of Joy for evermore. *Amen.*

A Prayer

A Prayer proper for Ember-Week.

O God, *the Father of Lights, from whom cometh down every good, and every perfect Gift*, I am ſenſible of thy great Grace, in ordaining a Succeſſion of Men to bleſs in thy Name, and to inſtruct us in our Duty; I am ſenſible of what Moment it is, that they ſhould be wiſe and good themſelves, who are to teach Wiſdom, and recommend Goodneſs and Virtue to thy People; and therefore I moſt humbly beſeech thee, to inſpire the Biſhops and Paſtors of thy Flock with the Spirit of Wiſdom and Diſcerning, to make Choice of ſuch only to be Stewards of the heavenly Myſteries, as *I truſt they are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghoſt, to take upon them the Office of ſerving in the ſacred Miniſtry of thy Church.*

And inſpire likewiſe all thoſe who ſhall be admitted to that Service with a great Zeal for thy Glory, and for the Honour of our Saviour, and for the Salvation of his People: Repleniſh them ſo abundantly with the Knowledge of thy Will in all Wiſdom and ſpiritual Underſtanding, that they may be apt to teach, ſkilfully divide the Word of Truth, rightly and duly adminiſter thy holy Sacraments, catechiſe and inſtruct the ignorant, exhort and convince Gainſayers, ſatisfy thoſe that are in Doubt, confirm thoſe that are well reſolved, comfort thoſe that mourn, abſolve the Penitent, and convey Bleſſ-

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ings to all thoſe who are committed to their Charge.

And hear, I beſeech thee, the Prayers of thy whole Church, which are now devoutly offered to thee; and ſtir up all the Faithful to ſend up ardent Supplications, that thoſe whom our ſpiritual Fathers now ſeparate to an holy Office, being the Children of Faſtings and Prayers, may be the more laborious and ſucceſsful in the Work of our Lord, and prove eminent Inſtruments of enlarging his Kingdom here on Earth, and thereby of bringing many Souls to his Kingdom in Heaven; for which I moſt humbly beſeech thee to fit and prepare us all by the Miniſtry of thy faithful Servants every where, for the Sake of our great High-Prieſt, Chriſt Jeſus; to whom, *&c.* *Amen.*

A Thankſgiving for any public or private Mercies.

O God, moſt high, and bleſſed for evermore, who haſt beſtowed upon us the Happineſs to know and underſtand thee, that thou art the Lord of all, and that thou *exerciſeſt Loving-kindneſs, Judgment, and Righteouſneſs in the Earth*, and that thou haſt ſaid, *In theſe Things thou delighteſt*[n]. Thou art to be worſhipped and adored with my continual Praiſes and Thankſgivings, who am here proſtrated before the

[n] Jer. ix. 24.

Throne

Throne of thy Grace, oppreſſed with the great Load of thy Mercies and Benefits, which call upon all that is within me to bleſs thy holy Name. I have often acknowledged that thou art the Author of my Being; and that it is thy Favour which hath made my Life not to be a Burthen to me, as it might have been by innumerable Miſeries. And now I heartily renew thoſe Acknowledgments, and thank thy great Goodneſs for my long continued Health, Eaſe, Peace, and Plenty; or that thou haſt mercifully relieved and ſupported me in any Sickneſs, Pain, Trouble, or Loſs of worldly Goods that hath befallen me; particularly I thank thee for thy late Bleſſings which thou haſt conferred upon me, notwithſtanding my Undeſervings, and high Provocations, which I have any Way given thy Divine Majeſty to deprive me of all good Things.

[*Here mention the Particulars in which you are privately concerned; and if it be the public Mercy of ceaſing a great Contagion, proceed thus:*]

Bleſſed be thy Goodneſs, which hath preſerved ſo many of us alive in the Midſt of a great Mortality; and hath reſtored Health again into the Habitations of our Neighbours. Bleſſed be thy ſparing Mercy which hath *delivered us from the noiſom Peſtilence; and when a Thouſand fell at our Side, and Ten Thouſand at our Right-Hand, didſt not ſuffer it to come nigh our Dwelling.*

ling. Thou haſt been our Refuge, and our Fortreſs, our God, in whom we ought to truſt for ever[x].

[After a War is ended, ſome ſuch Words as theſe may be added.]

If it had not been the Lord who was on our Side, may we all well ſay, if it had not been the Lord who was on our Side when Men roſe up againſt us; then they had ſwallowed us up quick, when their Wrath was kindled againſt us. Bleſſed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a Prey to their Teeth. Bleſſed be the Lord, who hath cauſed Wars to ceaſe, and made our Enemies to be at Peace with us. It is the Lord that ſtilleth the Noiſe of the Seas, the Noiſe of their Waves, and the Tumult of the People. The Lord giveth Strength to his People: The Lord bleſſeth his People with Peace[y].

[When Plenty is reſtored ſay,]

Thou haſt viſited the Earth, and bleſſed it; thou haſt made it very plenteous. Thou haſt crowned the Year with thy Goodneſs, and the Clouds have drop Fatneſs. Thou haſt bleſſed our Proviſion abundantly, and ſatisfied our Poor again with Bread. Bleſſed be the Lord, who cauſed the former and latter Rain to come down for us in their Seaſon, and filled us with the fineſt of the Wheat. We eat in Plenty, and are ſatisfied: Praiſed be the

[x] Pſal. xci. 2, 7. [y] Pſal. cxxiv. 1, 2, &c.—lxv. 7.—xxxix. ult.

Name

Name of the Lord our God, that hath dealt wonderouſly with us[z].

But above all, thy great and glorious Name is to be praiſed, for thine incomprehenſible Mercy in thy Son Chriſt, whom thou haſt ſent unto us with better Bleſſings, to be the Mediator of our Peace with thee; to heal all the Diſeaſes of our ſinful Natures, and to deliver us from the Power of Satan, and of Hell and Death, and to reſtore us to an immortal Life. Thanks be to thine infinite Goodneſs, which hath taught us by him the Way of Truth and Righteouſneſs, and made him an Offering for our Sins; and raiſed him from the Dead, to the Throne of Glory in the Heavens; and ſent from thence the Holy Spirit, to enlighten our Minds with the whole Knowledge of thy Will, and to ſhed abroad thy great Love in our Hearts, and to be the Earneſt of an heavenly Inheritance, together with our bleſſed Lord, who is Heir of all Things, having the Hoſts of Angels ſubject unto him, whom he hath appointed (bleſſed be thy Name) for the Guard and Defence, the Succour and Help of all his faithful Servants.

I thank thee, O Lord, that thou haſt pardoned ſo many Offences, and ſo graciouſly importuned me to return to my Duty; and afforded ſo long Time and Space of Repentance; and waited ſo patiently for my Amendment;

[z] Pſal. lxv. 9, 12.—cxxxii. 15.—xcvii. 14. Joel. ii. 28.

and

and continued to me conſtantly, I muſt again confeſs, ſo many Bleſſings which I have abuſed, or reſtored them to me after a ſhort Correction of my Faults. I cannot wiſh for any other Happineſs, but only for an Heart gratefully to receive thy Love, and to delight to meditate continually on thy tender Mercies; that ſo I may love thee more, and thank and ſerve thee better the reſt of my Days, and live in good Hope to paſs from all this Happineſs here to eternal Bliſs: And this Grace thou haſt likewiſe promiſed to beſtow upon me; yea, I feel the Motions of thy Holy Spirit in my Heart, exciting in me a Senſe of thy Goodneſs, and provoking me to Love and to good Works.

O my Soul, never forget the Loving-kindneſs of the Lord: Let his Name be daily bleſſed and praiſed with a joyful Heart; for *his Goodneſs endureth continually*[a]. To him I ought to live, and not unto myſelf; for he is my Creator, and Saviour, and Comforter, who daily loadeth me with his Benefits; therefore I ought to glorify him, both with my Body, and with my Spirit, which are his. Accept, good Lord, of the unfeigned Deſires and Purpoſes which thou ſeeſt in my Heart, in all Things to be conformed to thy Will. And accordingly aſſiſt me always with the renewed Influences of thy heavenly Grace, that I may grow in ſpiritual Wiſdom and Knowledge of my Duty; and that I may heartily love it, and faithfully re-

[a] Pſal. liii. 1.

member

member it, and give all Diligence to perform it, notwithſtanding any Difficulties that I meet withal to oppoſe it.

Enable me to maintain a conſtant Senſe of thy Divine Preſence, to reverence thy Holy Name and Word, and to walk before thee in all Humility, Thankfulneſs, Patience, Heavenly-mindedneſs, and Contentedneſs of Spirit. And help me likewiſe to exerciſe all Juſtice, Charity, Meekneſs, and Forgiveneſs towards all Men; and to live in a ſober, chaſte, and moderate Uſe of all the good Things of this World. Let thy Fear always curb the Diſorders of my Paſſions, and thy Love be a Spur to my Endeavours; and the Example of the Lord Jeſus, and all the Saints, provoke me to Zeal and Fervency of Spirit, and the Hope of eternal Bliſs: Strengthen, encourage, and make me conſtant in all the Troubles and Hardſhips of this Life; that perſevering in Well-doing, I may finiſh my Courſe with Joy, and win the Crown of Righteouſneſs, which he hath promiſed to all the Faithful. *Amen, Amen.*

ASſiſt me mercifully, O Lord, in theſe my Supplications and Prayers, and diſpoſe the the Way of thy Servants towards the Attainment of everlaſting Salvation; that among all the Changes and Chances of this mortal Life, I may ever be defended by thy moſt gracious and ready Help, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

A ſhort

A short Prayer for a Student.

I Look up unto thee, O Lord, *from whom cometh every good and perfect Gift*, beseeching thee to direct, assist, and bless all the Labours of my Mind; illuminate my Understanding, O Father of Lights, and lead me unto right Apprehensions of all Things. Endue me with that Humility and Soberness of Mind which thou delightest to reward with more of thy Gifts and Graces. Bestow upon me a discerning Spirit, a sound Judgment, and an honest and good Heart, sincerely disposed to employ all the Talents which thou hast, or shalt intrust me withal, to thy Honour and Glory, and to the Good of Mankind.

For which End, I beseech thee to excite my Thirst after useful, rather than much Knowledge; and especially enrich me with the Treasures of that inspired Wisdom contained in thy holy Scriptures, which are able to *make me wise unto Salvation*; *that* growing in Understanding and Goodness as I grow in Years, my Profiting may be apparent unto all Men, and I may give a comfortable Account of my Time to thee, my God, at the Day of the Lord Jesus. *Amen.*

A Prayer

A Prayer that may be uſed any Time of the Day, when a Perſon hath Leiſure to retire.

O Lord, the great Creator and Governor of all Things, I proſtrate myſelf before thee in the humbleſt Adoration of thy incomprehenſible Majeſty, acknowledging that I depend entirely upon thee; praiſing and magnifying thy moſt glorious Power, Wiſdom, and Goodneſs, which are conſpicuous every where; and rendering unto thee my moſt hearty Thanks for all the Benefits which thou haſt ſo freely and undeſervedly conferred on me. Thou art bountiful to the whole World; all thy Works praiſe thee; and we the Children of Men ought more particularly to bleſs thee, and ſpeak good of thy Name, who have received ſingular Marks and Tokens of thy Favour and Grace, above all the reſt of our Fellow-Creatures: Thou haſt made us after thine own Image, and endued us with reaſonable and immortal Spirits; and given us a Capacity to reflect on thee, the Author of our Being, and to be like unto thee in Wiſdom, Holineſs, Goodneſs, and Truth. But above all, I ought to remember continually that great Demonſtration of thy Love, in ſending thy dear Son to live among us, to die for us, and to give us an aſſured Hope of immortal Life.

I Love thee, O Lord, I renew the Oblation which I have often made of my Soul and Body to thee; I wait upon thee ſtill for what thou

ſeeſt

ſeeſt good for both; I hope in thy everlaſting Mercies, that thou wilt pardon all my Forgetfulneſs of thee, and Ingratitude unto thee; and I more earneſtly implore the Grace of thy Holy Spirit, to preſerve in my Mind a powerful Senſe of thee, an ardent Love to thee, and an holy Care to pleaſe and obey thee in all Thing; that the very ſame Mind and Spirit may be in me, which was in Chriſt Jeſus our Lord; the Spirit of Wiſdom and Underſtanding, and the Fear of thee; the Spirit of Meekneſs, Humility, Purity, and Charity; and that I may do thy Will with ſuch Chearfulneſs, Zeal, Conſtancy, Patience, and Perſeverance, as he did.

I thank thee, O Lord, for all Helps and Aſſiſtances of that good Spirit which thou haſt already favoured me withal. That thou haſt ſo frequently made good Motions to my Soul; inſpired me with holy Thoughts, and devout Affections; and inclined and diſpoſed my Will many Ways to the Choice of that which is good. I thank thee for the many ſeaſonable Admonitions which thou haſt given me, for the happy Opportunities which have been afforded me for Wiſdom and Virtue; for a good Education, pious Examples, faithful Friends, and all other Furtherances in the Way of Salvation.

I remember likewiſe, with my moſt grateful Acknowledgments, what Abundance of good Things thou haſt beſtowed on me, from Time to Time, for my better Accommodation in this preſent

preſent Life. Bleſſed be thy Name for my continued Health, and Food, and Raiment. Bleſſed be thy Name, that my Bones are not broken; that I am not groaning under the ſoreſt Pains; that I dwell in Safety Night and Day; and that I ſtill ſee my Friends and Acquaintance, and many other Comforts round about me.

I thank thee, O Lord, for theſe and all Bleſſings whatſoever that thou haſt conveyed to me by the Miniſtry of thy holy Angels, unto whom thou haſt given the Charge of me. *O bleſs the Lord*, together with me, *ye his Angels which excel in Strength, that do his Commandments, hearkening to the Voice of his Word.* And enable me every Day, I moſt humbly beſeech thee, O Father of Mercies, to bleſs thee better, with a purer Heart, and a more lively Senſe of all thy Love, and a greater Delight in thy divine Service, and a Forwardneſs to every good Work.

And as thou haſt preſerved me hitherto this Day, ſo bleſs me the remaining Part of it; that endeavouring ſincerely in all my Deſigns, Words, Deſires, and Actions, to approve myſelf to thee, as thy good and faithful Servant, I may, with a good Conſcience, preſent myſelf before thee in the Concluſion of it; and with the greater Confidence of thy gracious Acceptance, renew my Praiſes and Acknowledgments, and commend myſelf to thy Bleſſing, and hope for

for the continued Protection of thy holy Angels, through Chriſt Jeſus; to whom be Glory ever. *Amen.*

A ſhorter to the ſame Purpoſe.

I Proſtrate myſelf before thee, O Lord of Heaven and Earth, in all Humility of Soul and Body. I acknowledge my Dependance upon thee, and thy conſtant Care and Providence over me ever ſince I was born; particularly this Day, in keeping me hitherto from many Dangers, and providing for me many good Things, as well for the Comfort and Pleaſure, as for the neceſſary Support of this preſent Life; eſpecially I thank thee for thy exceeding great Love in the Lord Jeſus, through whom thou haſt given me good Hope of better Enjoyments in the Life to come, by following that bleſſed Example which he hath ſet us, of all Well-doing, and contented Suffering.

It is moſt reaſonable, O Lord, that I ſhould love thee, and entirely truſt in thee, and moſt willingly ſerve and obey thee; accordingly I here again dedicate myſelf, both Soul and Body, to thee; I vow myſelf ever to thy Service; I hope ſtill in thy great Mercies, which have been ſo tender, and ſo abundant towards me; I depend upon thee for what thou ſeeſt to be profitable for me; I refer myſelf abſolutely to thy wiſe Will,

Will, resolving to rest contented and satisfied in that Condition wherein thou placest me. I believe thou ordereſt all Things in Heaven and in Earth, and takeſt the greateſt Care of thoſe that wait upon thee, and commit themſelves unto thee, as I now do, in Confidence of thy Goodneſs, and Submiſſion to thy Pleaſure; eſpecially I rely upon thee, for thy Holy Spirit, to preſerve in me theſe holy Purpoſes; and inſpire me continually with good Thoughts, and ſtir up in me heavenly Affections, and increaſe and ſtrengthen my Faith and Hope in thee, and aſſiſt my Endeavours to do according to my pious Reſolutions.

Bleſſed be thy great Goodneſs for what I have felt already; I thank thee for thy many Illuminations from above; for thy Grace ſo early preventing me; for the Aſſiſtance and Furtherance thou haſt given me; and the happy Opportunities I have met withal of improving myſelf in true Wiſdom and Goodneſs. It is the earneſt Deſire of my Soul to grow more in both, and to be made perfectly like to my bleſſed Lord and Saviour; by whom all Honour and Glory be given to thee, O Father Almighty, World without End.

A Grace

A Grace before Meat.

WE acknowledge thy Goodneſs, O Lord, in making this [plentiful] *Proviſion for us: Pardon our Ingratitude for thy former Mercies; and bleſs us with ſuch a diſcreet and thankful Uſe of theſe thy good Creatures, that they may not hinder us in our Duty, but better diſpoſe us to do thee all faithful Service in our ſeveral Places, through our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt.* Amen.

Or this.

WE look up unto thee, O Lord, who giveſt us Life and Breath, and all Things; beſeeching thee to forgive us all our Sins, and to make us ſuch thankful Partakers of theſe thy good Creatures, that by a moderate Uſe of them, our Bodies may be refreſhed, and made more fit to accompany our Souls in hearty Endeavours to do thee faithful Service, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

Or this.

WE renew our thankful Acknowledgments unto thee, O Lord, for making again this merciful Proviſion for us, who are unworthy of the leaſt of thy Favours: add thy gracious Pardon likewiſe, and bleſs the ſober Uſe of theſe thy Creatures, to the

Strengthning of our frail Bodies: And endue our Souls with the Grace of thy Holy Spirit, that we may return back unto thee the Strength we receive from them in Well-doing, and it may be as delightful as our Meat and Drink to do the Will of thee our heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, &c. Amen.

After Meat.

WE return unto thee, O Lord, our hearty Thanks for these and all other the like Mercies bestowed upon us ever since we had a Being; especially for the Promises thou hast given us of eternal Life, by thy Son Christ: Enable us, we beseech thee, to continue so patiently in all good Works, that at last we may attain it. And bless thine universal Church, these Realms, the King, and all the Royal Family; and grant us thy Grace, Mercy, *and* Peace, *through Christ Jesus.* Amen.

Or this.

BLessed be thy Name, O Lord, for our continued Health, and Food, and Raiment, and Friends, and all other good Things, whereby thou maintainest the Comfort of this present Life. Above all, we thank thee for thy Love in Christ Jesus, and the Hope thou hast given us by him, of better Things in another World; unto which we beseech thee

thee to bring us by hearty Obedience to thee all our Days. Save thine universal Church, &c.

Or this.

WE thank thee, O Lord, that we are alive, and that we live in Health and Peace, and the Enjoyment of all good Things that are needful for the Support of this present Life, and for the Attainment of a better. Continue them, we pray thee, unto us, and continue in us such a thankful Sense of thy Love, that we may live unto thee, by whom we live. Save thy universal Church, &c.

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